

BEHIND ETERNITY

HOLYOKE WOMEN WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE

Written for Holyoke's Centennial by
MARCELLA K. KELLY, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Public Schools

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"ERRATA"

In the transfer of a penned manuscript from script to type to print, errors not included in the original are apt to occur. This is particularly true of typographical errors in spelling; occasionally, too, one finds insertions and deletions different from the original script. The author is adamant that the latter be noted.

P. 74 - Paragraph 2

Second last line - The verb is was, not were.

P. 91 - Top of page

Three words of a line of script deleted by the author are still included.

P. 194 - Last Paragraph

The conjunction is or, not and.

P. 364 - Last paragraph, line 6

A period should follow "School". (The phrase "in the city" is redundant.)

P. 366 - In caption under picture

Miss Frances Donahue's name is misspelled.

P. 387 - Paragraph 3, line 3

Omitted after the word Committees: "includes the names of those who"

Occasionally, an "s" has been omitted from a verb when the singular subject was part of an either-or-construction; also misspellings such as perpetuated, splendor, genius, anesthetic, producing, home-makers, etc.

In the original manuscript, the above errors did not occur.

Gratitude is expressed to Marcus Printing Co. for its fine cooperation.

M. R. K.



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BEHIND ETERNITY

*Holyoke Women
Who Made A Difference
1873-1973*

WRITTEN FOR THE CENTENNIAL

by

MARCELLA R. KELLY, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Public Schools

DEDICATED

TO THE AUTHOR'S PARENTS

DANIEL J. and MARY A. KELLY

“The joys that I have possessed are ever mine; out of my reach, behind eternity, hid in the sacred treasure of the past but blessed remembrance brings them hourly back.”

JOHN DRYDEN

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In addition to the foregoing, Mr. William Dwight, Sr. assisted the writer in reviewing a long list of names worthy of remembrance.

Others who made substantial contributions or suggestions are listed herewith: Mrs. Robert (Constance) Goss, Mrs. James (Helen) O'Connor, and Miss Marjorie Green.

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To Marshall Field and Company, ownership of rights to *Give the Lady What She Wants*, and to Holyoke Transcript-Telegram is tendered a special word of appreciation for permission to use appropriate quotations.

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FOREWORD



I first met Dr. Marcella R. Kelly when I was elected to the Holyoke School Committee. Until that time she was simply a name in the newspaper. She seemed a formidable figure and I imagined a difficult relationship. It never happened. The reason is this: one only has to be with Dr. Kelly for a very short time before realizing the depth of her commitment to our educational system. It is her life. No one ever served with Dr. Kelly who did not develop a deep and abiding respect for her. She can be difficult and demanding, but never for personal reasons. Her only concern has been the well-being and advancement of our school system. She asks no quarter, nor gives any. Excellence is her standard, and she has neither patience nor time for people who will settle for less. Anyone ever associated with her has come away from the experience richer and wiser. She drives us all, but never harder than she drives herself.

So, it is very fitting that Dr. Kelly has written a book about Holyoke's outstanding women. No other Holyoke woman was seriously considered for

this effort. In view of her accomplishments, this is entirely appropriate.

Dr. Kelly's ancestry is deeply rooted in the history of this city and our country. Her great-great grandparents were early pioneers who settled in the midwest long before homesteading days. Her father, Daniel Kelly, was a member of the Holyoke Board of Aldermen.

It is difficult to do justice to the scope of Dr. Kelly's remarkable career. Her contributions to Holyoke, her state, and her country, are numerous and impressive. She has been honored by the United States Congress, every important educational association, and all major civic groups. Bearing special notice are her inclusion in Who's Who in American Women and Who's Who in Education.

A review of her accomplishments, taken chronologically, make clear that her notable success was inevitable. Her first academic recognition was a Bachelor's degree from Fitchburg State Teachers' College, followed by a Master's degree from Columbia University. In 1945 she was awarded a Doctorate from Yale University, with Honors in Secondary Education.

Knowing that education is a continual process, Dr. Kelly increased her expertise as the recipient of many grants from educational foundations. She received a Fulbright Award for study in Norway and Italy in 1960; a Ford Foundation Scholarship to Williams College in 1965; a Kettering Foundation Scholarship in 1970; two grants from the American Association of School Administration plus an invitation to study Comparative Education in Russia in 1971.

Dr. Kelly joined Holyoke's school system as a teacher at Morgan Junior High School in 1931. Her abilities were soon recognized and she was appointed a Principal in 1938, followed by a promotion to Supervisor of Elementary Education in 1945 and Assistant Superintendent of Schools in 1946. She reached the zenith of her career when she became the first woman Superintendent of Schools in Holyoke in 1963.

Dr. Kelly, enthusiastically began a most difficult task. Holyoke, a city beset with financial problems, had little to offer in way of funding for public education. We were faced with deteriorating inner city schools and a serious lack of facilities in the western sector of our community. The challenges were awesome but Dr. Kelly rose to the occasion. She undertook the most ambitious building program in the Commonwealth - and she succeeded. Thanks to her leadership, Holyoke has successfully carried out the establishment of the Lt. Elmer J. McMahan, Lt. Clayre P. Sullivan and Maurice A. Donahue Elementary Schools, and especially the William R. Peck Junior High School. Under her guidance plans were completed for the renovation of the H. B. Lawrence School and the construction of a new and innovative West Street School. Also, we cannot forget her role in the building of our new Holyoke High School.

Buildings, however, do not make a school system. Dr. Kelly recognized this. Her innovations in curriculum shaped new directions for Holyoke Public Schools. She led our city through a period of ethnic and cultural change. Thanks to her foresight we avoided the problems experienced by many other communities.

Dr. Kelly was a pioneer in Bilingual education, and she actively promoted Black Culture studies. She introduced a successful Drug Education Program and secured the services of a Health Coordinator to broaden our Family Living Program.

At Holyoke Trade High School alone her accomplishments are startling. Dr. Kelly expanded the Foods Preparation Course, introduced the School of Licensed Practical Nursing, and another in Cosmetology.

The elementary school curriculum has been revamped and we are now embarking on a new and challenging Junior High School program.

Dr. Kelly would be the first to admit that all of this was accomplished with the help and support of many people. However, she was the catalyst.

This is a book about outstanding women, written by one of the most particularly outstanding women of this community.

Marcella Kelly is one of the few women anywhere to achieve such a special eminence. More remarkably, she did it in an era which did not wholly expect or accept such success from any woman.

It is Dr. Kelly's very special distinction, for all her success and achievement, that we recognize her sense of humanity and her concern for a job well done. The pride of all women in Dr. Kelly should properly spring from her demonstration that personal fulfillment is related to personal ability and dedication to service.

For those of you who have not met Dr. Kelly, nor had the pleasure of working with her, the

reading of this book should be a revelation into her character.

Holyoke's Centennial observance has been marked by many outstanding events that will have lasting benefit to the city, and this book by Dr. Marcella R. Kelly must rank as one of them.

Anne H. McHugh - 1973
Chairman
Holyoke School Committee

CHAPTER I

BEHIND ETERNITY

Introduction

Anniversaries are for remembrance. The one hundred years of Holyoke's yesterdays as a city mark an anniversary pregnant with nostalgic memories of people, places, and events. The story of the period is vital, colorful, paradoxical. Its memories run the gamut of death and life, poverty and plenty, success and failure, joy and sorrow, war and peace. It is a tale of endings and beginnings, beginnings and endings. It is an epic of an era swiftly passing behind the walls of eternity.

Holyoke became a city the year of the Panic of 1873. Times were hard. Money was scarce. Unemployment ranked high on the list of the nation's problems and priorities. Fortunes, large and small, were made and lost here as elsewhere. Withal, hope was high in the newly born city for return to normalcy once the economy took a turn for the better.

Holyoke, not unlike the rest of America, was undergoing great economic and social change. The era of private enterprise had arrived. With it came capital and more capital, large scale industrialization, job expansion, and mass production. Already signs of a higher standard of living were beginning to emerge. Eventually, there would be boundless opportunities for differentiated employment.

The growing city, in competition with industrial complexes everywhere, began to beckon those peoples of other lands who sincerely sought

to improve their lots. Thus the bulk of immigrants came! They came by the thousands to man Holyoke's mills. Though most were uneducated and of various ethnic origins, they shared at least one significant goal in common. It was a determination to build a better life for themselves and their children. Most immigrants were adventuresome, intelligent, diligent and ingenious people. Their phenomenal ascent from ignorance to enlightenment, from provincialism to social awareness, from struggle to achievement was nothing short of miraculous.

Young Holyoke did not enjoy either the prestige or status of those colonial New England cities and towns rooted in the culture and traditions of America's earliest settlers. Lack of roots meant "having to come up" the hard way. It can be said without equivocation that the grit, the toil, and the faith of the city's first peoples made Holyoke a place which those of us who were born here are proud to call "home".

Remembered, too, are Holyoke's early and great enterprisers who created opportunities for a people eager, ready, and willing to work. Without their capital, their vision and their drive, the city had little or no chance either to arrive or survive.

The contradictions and uncertainties of those first years were many. Work days were long, wages poor, and strikes ever imminent. Limitations on child labor were practically nil. Control of working hours and conditions of service for the female labor force were virtually non-existent. Yet, the determination to succeed rarely waned. Despite difficulties and adversities the goal of human betterment was on its way to realization. Evidence

was apparent in the steadily rising standard of living and the slow but certain emergence of a strong middle class. It was but a short time before the growing strength of that middle class began to assert itself in education, politics, and social reform.

Those who had much and those who had little were taking a lively interest in politics and parties. Women could not vote. Not until the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920 would that privilege be theirs. The fact they did not have the franchise neither failed to deter them from voicing their opinions nor did it stop them from choosing sides.

Political victories in young Holyoke, whether local, state, or national, were usually loudly and joyfully proclaimed. Victory parades replete with torches and banners, were common election night spectacles. The writer remembers well, though a very small child at the time, a torchlight parade witnessed in 1916, the year her father was elected Alderman from Ward Six. Victory parades continued to be customary until just prior to World War I. Demise came when the spirit and enthusiasm engendered by political victories assumed a different form of expression.

Recreation pre-1900 was limited. Affluent ladies of the period engaged in hostessing on a grand scale. Cultural pursuits as travel, gardening, music, art and volunteer social work were status symbols.

The poor and rising middle class had comparatively little time for leisure. Women who did not work were involved with home, church, and family. Women who did work suffered long hard

hours of toil in factories or businesses. Homemaking chores awaited them at the end of the day's occupation. Family ties, however, were strong. Sunday and holiday picnicking, skating, sliding and visiting occupied whatever leisure hours were theirs.

Active interest in church circles, study clubs and political groups date back to this era in Holyoke's history. Clubs offered outlets for women involved in social or political reform.

By 1900 the profile of the city had changed markedly. Perseverance and incessant effort had begun to pay off. Factories had mushroomed along the canals built in a previous era. More and more people poured in and out of the mills. From tenement dwellings built for workers and their families came such cacophonous sounds as only a heterogeneous people of many tongues could possibly create. Stately homes and mansions had multiplied. Church spires and steeples brushed the horizon. Schools, hospitals, shops, streets, sidewalks, paved roads, and countless large and small businesses were attesting that the city was well on its way to maturity.

Depending how well acquainted one is with the history of Holyoke, its rapid growth will seem phenomenal yet understandable. As the sprawling city began to spread its wings, education came to be recognized as the great leavener. Parents, zealots for the cause of education, demanded better schooling for their children. Public and parochial school expansion as well as the democratization of the high school arose from the preferences and needs of the citizens themselves. Holyoke had even established its own teacher training school in 1891

with twenty-one students in that first class. All were high school graduates. Some of the early and great teachers of the period were products of this institution.

Kindergartens, day schools, night schools, and a continuation school for under age drop-outs flourished the first quarter of the twentieth century. Holyoke was career oriented even in the early days, for it built its first vocational school in 1914. It is remembered that Holyoke had many firsts in education. These will be treated elsewhere in this volume.

One with a penchant for history will identify the twentieth century as the age of grinding materialism. Its first beginnings were rooted in the great inventions, discoveries, and expansions occurring prior to and immediately after World War I. Advances in transportation, communication, electronics, and plastics affected every hamlet in the land.

Holyoke at this point in time had become "the paper city of the world". Its industrial complex boasted not only the manufacture of paper, but also woolen, silk and cotton goods. With advances in communication and transportation, industrialists sought and found additional national and world markets. The city's foundry products and machine shop tools were in greater demand, too, as science and invention went their course.

Holyoke felt the sweep of the unprecedented progress in industry, business, home, and personal life. Unionism, had now launched stronger campaigns for shorter work hours and a living wage. Success at the bargaining tables resulted in more pay for less work. Exodus of families from lower to

upper residential Wards - Elmwood, Highlands, and Oakdale - became a frequent occurrence. Tenements vacated by those who "made it" were immediately occupied by newer immigrants or others who came to man the mills. The city's population the first twenty years of the century grew from 46,204 in 1900 to 62,386 in 1920.

There were still other conditions destined to alter life in the growing city. Science and discovery continued to produce. The automobile, airplane, radio, and cinema brought the faraway world closer to home. The automobile alone had tremendous effect on the city and its peoples. The day of car agencies had arrived. Few there were who did not entertain the idea of owning an auto as soon as the pocketbook or credit would allow.

Simple recreation activities of pre-nineteen hundred slowly disappeared as leisure time activities became more and more commercialized. Movie houses began to do a thriving business. The new amusement parks also proved a great source of attraction.

In 1914 war abroad and threats of American involvement swept the land. Hundreds of Holyokers alive today remember the country's entrance into World War I, April of 1916. Holyoke had to "summon up [her share of] blood"⁽¹⁾ for the horrible holocaust. Many a tear was shed as the flower of Holyoke's youth marched off to foreign soil "to make the world safe for democracy".

The War ended in 1918. Those who came home faced inflation, unemployment and a society whose social and moral values had changed markedly. Women had greater freedom than ever before. The Feminist Movement that had first reached national

(1) Shakespeare, W. Act iii, Sc. 1. King Henry V

prominence circa 1847 had infiltrated nearly every community. Wendt and Kogan ⁽²⁾ in a book called *Give the Lady What She Wants* described the early movement in this way:

“Some of the women wanted political independence. Some cried for equal rights in love, employment, and dress. Most of them wanted the privilege of doing their own choosing and buying in stores without husband or father deciding what must go on their backs and into their homes. All these ideas intermingled so that Feminists preaching political freedom taught independence and self-reliance to women seeking merely the right to a share of the family purse; and those who clamored to love freely passed a measure of defiance to ladies who wanted only to wear more comfortable clothes.”

Holyoke was and still is today a unique city. People took life in stride. It bears repeating that for a small city, its people expressed unusual interest in political and social movements. Early women who had the advantage of economic security and some education became actively involved in women's suffrage. They not only clamored for the right to vote but also for equality of opportunity in job competition and equal pay for equal work. Several of the grand pre-World War I hostesses were front line proponents in suffrage for women. These were the self-assured and economically independent women ever in search of broader fields of endeavor.

Susan B. Anthony is said to have visited Holyoke in the early days of the Feminist Movement. She was guest at the time of two of Holyoke's

(2) Wendt and Kogan *Give the Lady What She Wants*. P.27

earliest suffragists, Mrs. Charles E. Ball and Mrs. William Whiting.

Two of Holyoke's most distinguished leaders, Mrs. William G. Dwight and Mrs. Elizabeth Towne, were ardent suffragists. During and following the War, they campaigned vigorously for the right of women to vote. Mrs. Dwight in the height of the campaign went off to Chicago to participate in a nationwide parade designed to gain votes for the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment. The long hard struggle to win the franchise finally came to pass in 1920.

As a result of the new Amendment, civic minded women with a flair for politics became embroiled in party problems, legislation, and office seeking. In Holyoke several women between then and now were elected or appointed to positions of prominence in local and state government.

The city failed to return to normalcy following World War I. Inflation continued; speculation had reached a new high; the Stock Market soared. Then came the great crash of 1929. Banks closed; unemployment reached an unprecedented peak; the Great Depression was on its way. Those who did not live through that period cannot possibly appreciate how this city and its people suffered, or how America suffered. The prosperous profiles of the big cities changed completely. America's bustling, booming, overactive economy of the twenties was gone. Long gray lines of depressed humanity, hungry and discouraged, were visible everywhere. In Holyoke thousands of people were either on short time or no time at all; small businesses failed; large were forced to operate with a minimal work force, as money was scarce

and the demand for goods at the lowest point ever. Homes and fortunes were lost; even the bare necessities of life were difficult to obtain.

The proud poor tightened their belts and made do the best they could. The utterly helpless went on Welfare thus increasing the financial burden on a city whose taxes were becoming exceedingly more difficult to collect. People just did not have the money to pay them.

Holyoke took on the look of a city mourning a great crisis. It was difficult for the rank and file to understand how almost overnight what had been so much could become so little. Not until the election of Franklin Delano Roosevelt did the first ray of hope stir the discouraged to encouragement.

Roosevelt's "New Deal" policy was instrumental in putting the nation's economy on its feet. Banks were in business again; public works projects were designed to boost employment; work camps for young men were established to take disillusioned youth off the streets. The phrase "alphabet soup" originated in the Roosevelt years as CCC camps, WPA projects, and NRA activities came into being. Soon Holyoke's factories boomed; the business outlook brightened, and people began to sing again. Recovery had just about reached its peak when a different and more formidable holocaust was to shake the planet.

In 1939 World War II began in Europe. Rhetorically speaking, it was seemingly overnight that the war engulfed three continents with a fourth in the offing. Japan's shameful attack on Pearl Harbor December 1941 plunged America into the greatest conflagration the world had ever known. The German Blitzkrieg was bad enough in

itself, but the destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki ushered in the ultimate in warfare. With the dropping of the atomic bomb, the age of the nuclear weapon had arrived.

For the second time in less than three decades Holyoke's men and women marched off to do battle on foreign soil. A goodly share of the women joined the WACs, WAVEs, or WAFs. Holyoke's doctors and nurses answered the call in such numbers that at home the city suffered for lack of comfortable health care.

Scores of women, through the clubs with which they were affiliated, gave unstintingly of their time to advance the country's cause. Some utilized whatever leisure was theirs to promote the sale of U.S. Savings Stamps and War Bonds. Other women joined the labor force, as the city's factories worked feverishly to satisfy the demands of the war. Even professional women manned the mills second shift to advance the war effort.

Following the war's termination in 1945, the key word throughout the civilized world became survival. In the fearful forties and fifties it meant physical survival, but in the violent sixties it came to mean not alone physical but spiritual survival as well.

The aftermath of World War II was scarcely sifted of its chaff when in 1951 America became embroiled in the Korean conflict to save the world from takeover by the Communists. The frightening fifties had three disturbing concerns: fear of the spread of Communism, fear of implications of the cold war, and fear for the safety of the free world. The Korean war was most unpopular in Holyoke as elsewhere; nevertheless, the city's men and

women served their country admirably. By 1953 the war ended in a stalemate.

Everything is because of something that was. In the expressed unpopularity of the Korean War was rooted an ominous note little heeded at the time. The sixties would bear witness to its import. When that time came, those of us who love America deeply would be weeping for the plight of our people and our country.

The great race for space began in 1957, when Russia astounded America and the world by sending Sputnik into orbit. At the time countless homes throughout Holyoke and the nation were equipped with television. News and pictures of this spectacle reached the people even as the event itself was in process of culmination. The realization that our planet Earth was but a speck in space hit home more forcibly than ever.

As a result of Sputnik there was great hue and cry in Holyoke and the country, generally, regarding the kind of education being offered our children and youth. It seemed almost as if everyone who read the newspapers, not alone a book, became an authority overnight on what should best be taught in schools in order to produce more mathematicians, more scientists and more technologists. Educators themselves worked feverishly to stiffen the backbone of science and mathematics curricula. No school system was considered respectable those first years following Sputnik unless at least one Science Fair was held annually. A push to guide young women as well as young men in the pursuit of science or mathematics as a college major was the prescription of the hour.

At the close of the fifties and beginning of the

sixties the seeds of discontent were brewing in the cities. A new kind of divisiveness was lurking in the shadows of the land. Violence and hatred were mounting seemingly everywhere. The decade has been called the most revolutionary in American history. Society has been variously described as rebellious, sick, paranoid, degenerative and rootless. Only time will assess the actual impact of the era on American manners, morals, and beliefs. It was a decade of drastic change and lively action.

Holyoke, part of the life of the nation, could not help but reflect the societal unrest of the time.

During that decade began what was to be the longest war in American history, the Vietman conflict. Thousands of young men lost their lives to insure the right of the Vietnamese people to be and to remain free. The Vietnam struggle was the most unpopular of all wars in which America had been involved. Peace marches, at times violent in themselves, were common. Rioting and burning of draft cards occurred throughout the land. The age of people power was at our door steps.

A philosophy of neo-idealism became identified with the young. It expressed itself on the college campuses in militant action against the establishment, and in rallying to great causes such as the Civil Rights movement and the plight of the disadvantaged or the culturally deprived. Appeal to reason had little or no effect.

The very moral fibre of society was not only questioned but eroded. Strange and weird cults now and again raised their ugly heads. The extent to which the nation was victim of paranoia was witnessed in the assassinations of President Kennedy

in 1963, Robert Kennedy in 1968, and Martin Luther King, also in 1968.

One of the worst catastrophes of the day was the drug culture. Youth who “copped out” turned to drugs, some to be with the “in” group of their peers, others because they could not cope or felt they could not cope with the reality of the present. Undoubtedly there were other reasons also.

Style of dress changed radically. There was no stemming the tide of extreme change. Everyone spoke of freedom to be, to do, and to become; always the emphasis was on rights, rarely on responsibilities. Language changed radically, too. The most vulgar of emotionally-loaded words could now be heard in the best of places.

Toward the end of the sixties, riots and threats to the establishment seemed to lessen; campuses calmed down, and people power in the cities took the form of a more positive involvement. As the violent sixties faded into nothingness, conditions remained about the same.

It was during this strange interlude called the violent sixties that America sent men to the moon. It was also during this complex era that great strides were made in medical research, ecumenism, and human welfare.

The silent seventies arrived with no pealing of bells. The Vietnam War still dragged on. Tyranny of silence enveloped the peace talks in process in Paris since 1968. Finally, the day did arrive, Saturday, January 27, 1973, when all involved parties signed the peace treaty. That evening, bells did toll throughout the land and a grateful people prayed that this peace would be everlasting. America lost

47,000 men in the struggle. Holyoke suffered its share of the maimed and the dead.

This was the century that was Holyoke's historic one hundredth! One cannot speak of Holyoke except as it is reflective of the life of the nation. It was against the backdrop of the century's history that women who made the difference lived out or are living out their lives in this community. They have come a long way.

The roles they have played and are playing have been interwoven in a tapestry that is rich in color, strong in fibre, and magnificent in detail. It is a tapestry of which both men and women can be truly proud. As one traces the progress of Holyoke's women over these hundred years, it is our belief that Holyoke can and will survive.

CHAPTER II

EARLY WOMEN OF PROMINENCE

"Greatness lies not in being strong, but in the right use of strength." - H. W. BEECHER

Holyoke's prominent women in the early years of the city's development were socially and civically inclined. Fairly affluent, they lived in lovely homes, had distinguished husbands, and entertained with casual elegance.

One of the most influential women of the period was Mrs. William (Anna Fairfield) Whiting. She was a native of Holyoke, daughter of a farmer who had settled in town prior to 1873. The late Mrs. William G. (Minnie R.) Dwight, in conversation with the writer, spoke often of Mrs. Whiting as a woman of strong character and boundless energy, one who possessed unusual social and civic awareness. The latter attribute was understandable as her husband, the Honorable William Whiting, served, in turn, as State Senator, City Treasurer, Mayor of Holyoke and distinguished Congressman in the forty-eighth, forty-ninth and fiftieth Congresses.

The Whiting home, located at the corner of Appleton and Elm Streets, and only recently razed, was ever a source of curiosity to the writer who often paused, in passing, to wonder whatever that large, oval-shaped, glass-capped extension to the house could possibly be. A museum, perhaps? Or a private chapel? Or a solarium? It developed it was none of these. Mr. Whiting had the extension constructed to house his fine library collection. To say that his books and pamphlets numbered in the thousands may not be an exaggeration.

As wife of a public official, Mrs. Whiting entertained the great and the near great. Presidents McKinley and Garfield were among those known to have been guests in the Whiting home; Mr. Garfield before he was elected, Mr. McKinley while in office. As Mr. Whiting was a prominent industrialist who owned the famous Whiting Paper Mills, and factories elsewhere as well, Mrs. Whiting had also to entertain leading manufacturers in the field, many of whom were from Europe. She was indubitably one of Holyoke's early social arbiters. She decried the vulgar and ostentatious, had a penchant for good breeding, and felt a subtle empathy for those less fortunate than herself.

She worked diligently outside the home to help where she could to improve things as they were. She was noted for her generosity, particularly to Holyoke Hospital. Mrs. W. G. Dwight, in a news story entitled "Women Leaders in Holyoke", the Transcript-Telegram, October 18, 1949, said of Mrs. Whiting:

"In her later years she established garden parties for the Holyoke Hospital. She would **have** them in June so she could roof her garden with budding hemlocks. They would last a week. She would go around among her friends - who were everybody - and get every race and creed and nationality working on her tables."

Mrs. Whiting was a firm believer in women's rights. She could not be called a woman's liberation advocator in the sense of today's ultra movement. She was, rather, merely a strong believer in a woman's right to vote. Unfortunatley, she did not live to see the Nineteenth Amendment enacted, for she died in 1914.

The wives of the two sons of Mr. and Mrs. William Whiting were deeply involved in the life of Holyoke. Mrs. William Whiting, Jr. and Mrs. Samuel R. Whiting participated as did their mother-in-law before them in social, church, and charitable activities. They were also strong supporters of women's suffrage as were many of Holyoke's early women.

Before leaving the Whiting story, it is fitting to recall that in 1877 William Whiting, the First, was instrumental in having built the Holyoke Opera House on a piece of property owned by him on the north side of lower Dwight Street. When the building was recently razed, many a tear was shed by Holyokers who knew the Opera House when it offered the best in stock and musical comedy. Mr. Whiting also had the Windsor House built, Holyoke's first large hotel.

The Whiting line will long be remembered for its contribution to the cultural and social growth of this community.

To place one's self in time totally unfamiliar to moments of the present is a task difficult for any person, no less the writer. Life moved so quietly, so differently, so gracefully for those blessed with wealth and influence one hundred years ago. One thing is certain. It was the capital of early industrialists, builders, bankers, and businessmen that nurtured a struggling young city, supported its institutions, and provided work for its citizens. It was they who built a public hospital and public library, insisted on good schools, and gave generously to the churches. Their wives and daughters, too, had something of the pioneer spirit of their husbands and fathers. They patronized the



MRS. WILLIAM SKINNER

arts, worked to perpetuate our culture, and volunteered their services in behalf of innumerable worthy causes.

The William Skinner family contributed enormously to the building of this city. Mr. Skinner was founder of the famous silk mills bearing his name. Skinner fine satins and silks were sold nationally and internationally until synthetic materials arrived on the scene.

Mrs. Sarah E. Allen Skinner, second wife of Mr. William Skinner, was mistress of Wistariahurst. She was a stately, graceful, and well-poised individual admirably suited to her role as wife of one of Holyoke's most successful industrialists. A devoted wife and mother, she still found time to promote all kinds of charitable causes. As a hostess she was gracious, popular, and tactful.

Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. William Skinner: William, Elizabeth, Joseph, Belle and Katharine, each distinguished in his own right. It was Miss Belle Skinner who became mistress of Wistariahurst after her mother's death.

The Skinner home, now a museum, hummed with social activity until the time of Miss Belle Skinner's passing.

The writer lived a portion of her life at 260 Pine Street, in a house directly across from Wistariahurst. From a second floor window she could view quite clearly the classic lines of the mansion, its inviting music conservatory, and a small pagoda-like tea room that proved a source of endless curiosity to children who chanced to wander into the area. The grounds, spacious and



WISTARIAHURST FOYER

well manicured, enhanced the dignity of the house itself. Flowers - variegated roses - were laid out in neatly trimmed beds; wistaria vines planted by Mrs. Skinner herself adorned the house each spring; a high iron fence sheltered the buildings and grounds from prowlers or vandals.

The Encyclopedia of Biography of the American Historical Society⁽¹⁾ tells us something of how Wistariahurst happened to become part of the Holyoke scene.

“Until 1874 his (Mr. Skinner’s) plant was located in the center of a prosperous community which grew up around it known as Skinnerville. Then came the great flood of 1874, when Mill River swept all evidences of manufacturing from her banks, leaving nothing belonging to Mr. Skinner but his residence, and, that injured. The rebuilding of a plant was an easy matter as the only thing to do was to plan new and enlarged buildings, select a location, and build. But with the handsome residence slightly injured, the problem was more difficult. It was finally settled, however, by taking the house down as carefully as possible and transporting it to Holyoke grounds occupying an entire city block. Thus was the old mansion with its memories retained and with its beautiful surroundings, the home of Mr. Skinner until his death.”

Wistariahurst, “valued gem” of Mr. William Skinner was the scene of great parties in its heyday. Mrs. William Skinner is said to have lived for her family and entered into their social life and that of the city with tremendous zest and vigor.

One cannot mention Wistariahurst without speaking of the music room built especially to accommodate one of the best collections of old musical instruments in the world. On several different occasions the writer visited the music room and on each tour found the instruments

(1) Ibid. page 197



MISS BELLE SKINNER

equally fascinating. The first time was in the late twenties when Mr. George Brakey, chauffeur to the Skinner family, brought some of his children and some of the Kellys to see the display. It was a memorable event. They went in single line with hands by their sides and walked tiptoe through the great hall and through what seemed a long corridor until they reached the music room. They spoke in whispers, just standing there looking. Young though they were, they realized they stood in the presence of something beautiful and awe-inspiring.

It was Miss Belle Skinner who accumulated the instruments; it was she also who had an extension built to Wastariahurst to house the collection. It was her intention to make Holyoke a great cultural center, particularly in music. Mrs. Fanny Hammond, wife of Holyoke's beloved William Churchill Hammond, was selected to care for the instruments. This she did lovingly and conscientiously until Wistariahurst became a museum.

Miss Belle Skinner was an unusual woman. She had a love for music, poetry, art and travel. At Wistariahurst she entertained, between frequent visits to France, musicians who came from far and wide to view her unique collection. Mrs. William G. Dwight, in writing of Miss Belle Skinner remarked, "She could call distinguished Metropolitan opera singers by their first names."

In an age different from that of her mother, she tasted something of the freedom earlier women never knew. For some years she maintained a home in Paris, France. During her stay there, she developed a sincere interest in and a love for the French people. Following the First World War, the French government acclaimed Miss Skinner for ac-

tivities in behalf of the villages of Hatton-Chatel and Apremont. She rebuilt the medieval village of Hatton-Chatel and she was instrumental in Holyoke's adoption of the village of Apremont which had been destroyed in the war years. Her interest in the plight of the French people during World War I gained for her international prominence.

Belle Skinner died on a visit to France. Her goal to make Holyoke a musical center was never realized.



Wistariahurst; Cabot St. Entrance

The Skinner heirs, in their generosity, deeded Wistariahurst to the city in October 1959. The writer served on a special committee designed to investigate how the mansion could best be used, if accepted by the city. After much study, it was decided that it should become a museum. The only museum Holyoke supported at the time was one located on an upper floor of the Holyoke Public

Library where a small but valuable collection of artifacts was housed. Dr. Edward P. Bagg, President of the Library-Museum Association had been seeking new quarters for the Museum for years. Many sites and buildings had been discussed previously, but here almost in the heart of the city was a building steeped in Holyoke tradition. Thus opened a new page in the history of the culture of Holyoke. But for the generosity of the Skinner family, that page could never have been turned.

The name of another family whose women were prominent in Holyoke first came to the attention of the writer some years ago in a rather unique way. When families were more closely knit than they are today, it was customary to make much of Memorial Day. Children went with their parents to view parades and listen to speeches in praise of those who gave their lives for this country. Families would then either walk or drive to the cemetery to decorate the graves of relatives buried there. Northampton Street, even in the twenties and thirties, would be the scene of long lines of parents and children carrying small geranium plants, bouquets of lilacs if still in season, or even artificial wreaths to be placed on graves at Calvary, Elmwood, St. Jerome or Forestdale Cemeteries. Somehow on such tours children would get to know where the family plots were located and would learn through stories of their forebears something of the kinds of people from which they sprang. As a result, they tended to develop, almost unconsciously, a respect for their roots.

On one such visit the writer recalls a tour of Calvary Cemetery on a Memorial Day and of coming upon an extraordinarily large and beautifully landscaped plot, framed with cement border of



Delaney Plot; Calvary Cemetery

unique design. No other plot was as large; no other plot was so artistically designed. The name on the huge tombstone was Delaney. It was somewhat coincidental that years later a descendant of that family would be secretary to the writer.

John Delaney, founder of the family in America, was a mason, contractor and builder who came to this country from Ireland in 1835. He married about a decade later Bridget Lahey, also native of Ireland and convent bred, who proved to be of immeasurable help to her husband socially in the long years ahead.

According to her great granddaughter, Mrs. Rose Delaney Stickel, Mrs. John Delaney, the First, was a tall, slender, dignified lady, mistress of the Delaney mansion located at Dwight and Elm Streets where the Post Office now stands. Though she tended to be somewhat reserved, she was gregarious by nature and one of the early community leaders of her time. Her husband's position as head of Delaney Construction Company brought Mrs. Delaney into contact with many persons of wealth and influence. It was the Delaney Construction Company that built dams and bridges, the foundations of the Holyoke City Hall, Marble Hall, our canal walls and several of Holyoke's old churches.

Mrs. John Delaney was one of the first of her ethnic background to have cook and maid service in her home. She was among the first, too, to own a carriage and it was not unusual to see Mr. and Mrs. Delaney riding through town in it of a sunny and peaceful Sunday afternoon.

The Delaneys were Catholics by birth and contributed generously to the expansion of Catholic

land holdings in the Holyoke community. Mr. and Mrs. Delaney were prime movers in the building of St. Jerome parish and they are listed among the first members of that church to donate stained glass windows in the name of "John Delaney and Wife".⁽²⁾ The first Delaney family, too, donated the land for Calvary Cemetery where today the family plot holds the remains of upwards of thirty Delaney descendants.

Mr. and Mrs. Delaney were staunch Democrats and their home was the scene of many a meeting of those either in or aspiring to office. Their sphere of activity in this field extended beyond that of local politics. They were known to have entertained a governor of the Commonwealth and members of the General Court as well.

Mrs. Delaney though first of all a homemaker, did devote many years of her life to volunteer social work not only within the parish but also in the city at large. Mrs. Rose Delaney Stickel remembers, too, that her great grandmother collected fine paintings and china, and was particularly gifted in needlepoint, and other delicate handwork.

Six children were born to John and Bridget (Lahey) Delaney; James, John, Julia, Mary Louise, Elizabeth and Mary.

James, son of the first John Delaney, served as Mayor of Holyoke for one term, city clerk for several years, and a member of Governor Russell's staff for three years; he was also a delegate at large to the National Democratic Convention in 1888 and 1889.

(2) Lucey, P. J. *Diamond Jubilee, St. Jerome Parish*. 1931 P. 115

James Delaney married Mary Devereaux who carried on the family traditions after the manner of the first Mrs. Delaney. Mrs. James Delaney had great savoir-faire; she was tremendously socially inclined and an excellent hostess. Her support of church and charities, as was true of all Delaney women, was tremendous.

Mrs. Samuel McQuaid, Mary Louise Delaney, daughter of John Delaney, was an imposing woman, tall of stature and determined in manner. She was also a stylish woman always impeccably well-groomed. As wife of Samuel McQuaid owner of the



MRS. JOHN L (Margaret Horan) DELANEY, II

Goetz Silk Mills, she came in contact with many industrialists and entertained in her husband's behalf on a grand scale. A relative of Mrs. McQuaid recalls that she was a strong personality, immersed in the interests of her family, and appreciatively aware of the needs of others. Her generosity to the less fortunate was boundless.

The McQuaids lived in the Delaney homestead on Dwight Street and were among the first to have a Pierce-Arrow and a liveried chauffeur.

Three children were born to Samuel and Mary Delaney McQuaid: John, Jeannette and Samuel.

The Delaney family has been active in this city from its very beginnings.

Margaret Delaney, third generation descendant of the first John Delaney, became first Dean of Women at Holyoke High School; Rose Delaney Stickel, fourth generation descendant, is a Secretary to Holyoke's Superintendent of Schools; her daughter, Jonelle Stickel Smith, fifth generation, has been associated for several years with Mount Holyoke College in its Music Department; Jonelle Smith's children represent, today, the sixth generation of Delaney descendants still part of the Holyoke scene. Not many can trace back six generations in Holyoke. The Delaney descendants can, for the youngest at this point in history, go back to their great-great-great-grandfather.

In addition to the Delaney women, there were others of similar ethnic origin who played significant roles in the life of the infant city. Among these were: Mary E. Lynch O'Reilly, wife of Dr. P. T. O'Reilly, phisician; Maria Marra Lynch, wife of Thomas Lynch, of Lynch Brothers Construction

Company; Mary Sullivan Dillon, wife of John Dillon, undertaker; Mary Frances McCann Dowd, wife of James Dowd, founder of the Dowd Insurance Agency; Mary Gilbert O'Shea, wife of John O'Shea, well-known early piano and music dealer; Katherine Griffin Callahan, wife of John R. Callahan, prominent attorney; Catherine Manning O'Connell wife of John O'Connell, forebear of Daniel O'Connell who founded the Daniel O'Connell and Sons Construction Company.

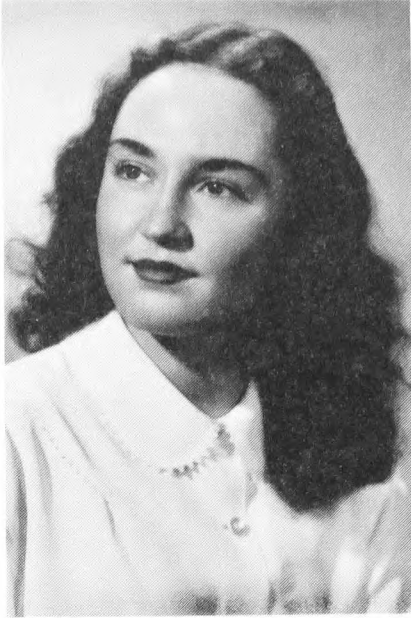
Other great hostesses of the period, some newcomers to Holyoke, had the grace, social savoir-faire, and means to help perpetuate the best in people-to-people contacts. They helped, too, to preserve a taste for decorum, refinement, and culture. It was they who, in great measure, developed what came to be the tradition of service, a tradition which persists in Holyoke even to this day.

Mrs. Charles W. Ranlet, wife of Holyoke's first banker, did much entertaining and played an active role in the earliest life of the city. Her sister, Sarah E. Nye Chase, was still another whose name appears in older records as patroness of the arts and arbiter of social amenities.

Mrs. Samuel Whiting and all the Whiting women were greatly involved in the cultural life of the young city. Scarcely a social service committee existed on which their names did not appear.

Whiting women not only did their share in promoting cultural pursuits, but they were, also, along with other privileged ladies of their day, sincere welfare workers at a time when professionals in that category did not exist.

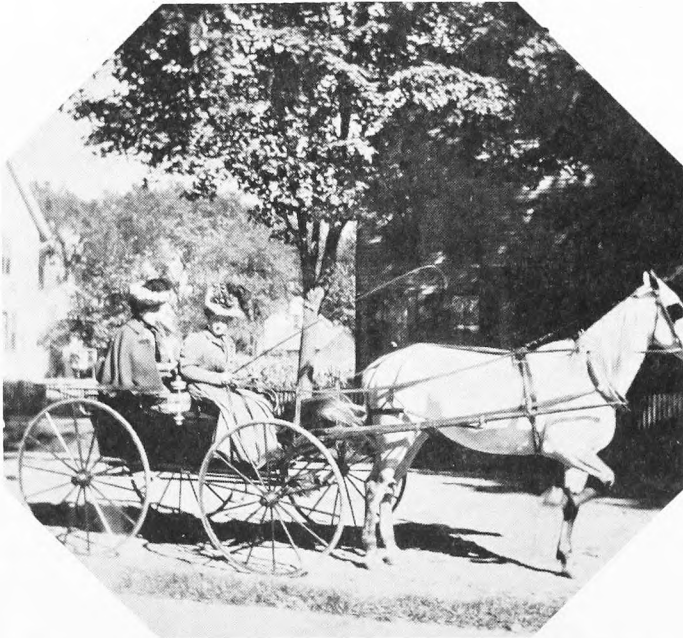
DELANEY WOMEN



MRS. CHARLES (Jonelle Delaney Stickel) SMITH



MRS. PAUL W. (Rose Delaney) STICKEL, and Mother



MRS. JOHN (Rose Cronin) DELANEY, and MISS ELIZABETH DELANEY

Mrs. Joseph Metcalf, who was before her marriage Clara Wheeler Farr, and her sister-in-law, Mrs. Herbert M. Farr, gave unstintingly of their money, time, and service to a growing Holyoke. As early as 1874 their husbands, Herbert M. Farr and Joseph Metcalf, respectively, were connected with the founding and operation of the Farr Alpaca Company, a plant that produced in the height of Holyoke's industrial era, some of the world's finest cotton, woolen, cashmere, and mohair goods.

A deserving postscript to the preceding paragraph is the fact that Joseph Metcalf School was named for the husband of Clara Wheeler Farr.

Other names identified with the city's earliest period included those of Mrs. Day Chadwick, Mrs. Kate Tyner, Mrs. William Brooks, Mrs. E. C. Taft, her daughter Mrs. W. D. Flagg, and Mrs. Frank Metcalf.

When the writer was a young elementary principal at Springdale School, she had one day the pleasure of a visit from three impressive elderly-looking ladies of whom, one, Mrs. W. D. Flagg acted as spokesman.

"What", she wanted to know, "were the public schools doing for *Be Kind to Animals Week*?"

Scarcely waiting for a reply she questioned whether Springdale School children could enter an art contest on the subject of kindness to animals. Prizes, she explained, would be awarded by the SPCA, an agency in which she herself was especially active.

While this monologue was taking place, only one thought crossed the mind of the writer, that here was the owner and occupant of famous

Kenilworth Castle, that fortress-like looking mansion built on a hill west of the northern-most limits of Northampton Street.

How many countless persons passed that castle in their youth either dreaming dreams of wealth and grandeur or conjuring up tales of ghosts, goblins, and leprechauns?! The castle is no more but the generous contributions made to charitable causes by both Mrs. Taft and her daughter, Mrs. Flagg did make a difference when Holyoke was very young and vigorously alive.

P.S. The children did enter the contest.

In that pre-1900 period, another group of ladies of different ethnic background made remarkable contributions to the religious, social and cultural life of Holyoke that indisputably ranked with the best of the time. Mrs. Eugenie LaFrance was considered one of Holyoke's most socially prominent personalities. Her husband, Louis N. LaFrance, built hundreds of apartment houses and tenement blocks in the greater Holyoke area and at one time was the highest individual taxpayer in this city. Mrs. LaFrance extended her efforts on behalf of many philanthropic causes and is said to have contributed generously to church and charitable groups.

Still other women who worked zealously to make Holyoke a better place in which to live included Mrs. Matilda Prew, and Mrs. Caroline Prew; the former, first wife of Joseph N. Prew, died in 1895; the latter became Mr. Prew's second wife in 1879. Both women were liberal givers to worthy causes.

Women of the same ethnic strain as Mrs. Prew and Mrs. LaFrance also contributed greatly to Holyoke's cultural growth. Mrs. Amedee Gingras, Mrs. Frank Menard, Mrs. Valere Ducharme, Mrs. Xene Pare, Mrs. O. O. Lamontagne, Mrs. Arthur Perreault, and Mrs. Val Laliberte - all were wives of men prominent in the business and professional life of the new city.

Mrs. Gilbert Potvin did much to help new arrivals in the new city. As her husband was the first contractor of French origin, she enjoyed considerable status in the community.

The wonderful Anna Marie Laporte, of whom much in a later chapter, spoke often of the French gentleladies who came to Holyoke from Canada in the days when the young city was just beginning to creep. These women, traditionally homemakers, were the social and civic leaders of their people. Those who were financially comfortable, dressed stylishly, were excellent hostesses, and strong supporters of church-connected charities.

As the years unfolded, and generation after generation stepped into history, the descendants of our first settlers whether of English, Irish, French or other ethnic or racial ancestry became gracefully and willingly part and parcel of the grand American dream.

All of Holyoke's early women of stature lived in an age so completely different from the moving present that only history and imagination can recapture or recreate something of how it was that first quarter century of the last one hundred years. Styles were different; manners, customs, attitudes and values were different.



Fashions of the Era

Home furnishings of the advantaged were rich and ornate. In some homes, as Kenilworth, everything was grandiose in the expansive manner and reflective, on the whole, of European taste of the period. China, silver and stemware, linens, laces, rugs and statuary when not imported came from the best American shops and emporiums.

Ladies' costumes in the seventies were lavishly ornamented with buttons, flowers, feathers, shells, tulle, ribbons, and lace. Dress materials varied from inexpensive cotton and poplin to expensive woolen, cashmere, silk, satin, serge and velvet. Hoops, crinolines, bodices, bustles, panniers, petticoats, and tunics were the "in" things. Fans were quite fashionable. Some were made of imitation ivory; others of sheer silk studded with simulated pearls or other synthetic jewels.

Hair was sometimes worn high with the aid of crimped chignons; it could also be styled with frizzed curls of natural or artificial variety. Bonnets, modish and small, were richly beribboned and capped close to the head. (3)

Less advantaged women dressed in costumes similar in style to those of women of means except that the materials were plain and inexpensive. Adornments, too, were simpler in contrast to the elaborate trimmings of more costly gowns. Shawls of every color and design were worn by most women, the quality of weave dependent upon the size of the pocketbook.

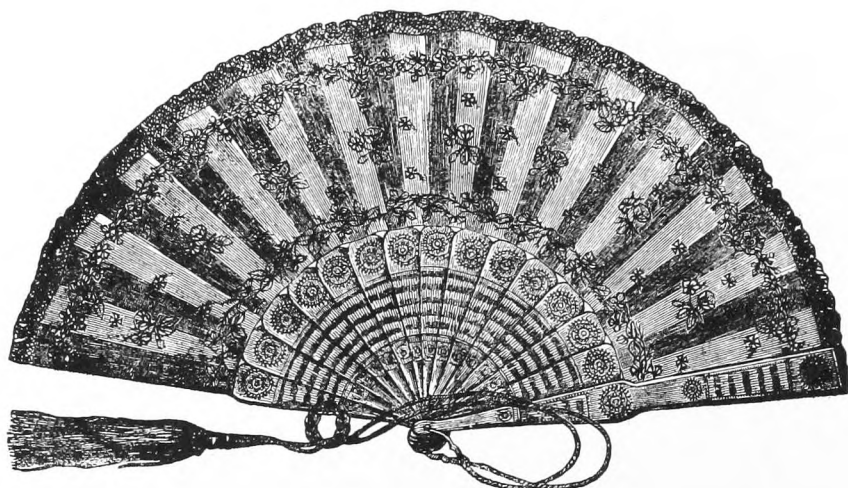
As the hands of time moved closer to 1900 and beyond, fashions gradually became less preten-

(3) Wendt and Kogan, *Give the Lady What She Wants*. Rand McNally Co. 1951

Secondary Source: *Godey's Lady Magazine* 1869

tious, less enveloping, and more comfortable. Today, in strong contrast to yesteryear, the abbreviated costume has come to be the vogue.

More palatial homes of the period were Victorian or Tudor in style of architecture. Spacious entrance halls, separate dining areas, huge kitchens, comfortable sitting rooms, prim parlors, inviting libraries and softly lighted music rooms, - all made for the kind of gracious living characteristic of an era long since past.



CHAPTER III

A LADY OF UTMOST DISTINCTION

MRS. WILLIAM G. (Minnie R.) DWIGHT

- JOURNALIST EXTRAORDINAIRE, PUBLISHER, HUMANITARIAN -

OTHER DWIGHT WOMEN

"Talent and worth are the only eternal grounds of distinction."

CATHARINE MARIA SEDGWICK

The William G. Dwight home in later years was located at 387 Appleton Street. The big brick house and its beautiful tulip gardens are no more. Nor is the distinguished woman who was its mistress. For those who chanced to have been acquainted with the home and its "first lady", memories of both will be ever nostalgic, elevating, and enduring.

It will be recalled by many that whether the evening were moonlit, rainy, raw, or stormy, number 387 Appleton was always aglow with welcoming light. In a sense, that light was symbolic of the spirit of the lady who lived and worked there for a goodly share of her lengthy and influential years.

Mrs. William G. Dwight was an unusually gifted person. Holyoke has had many prominent women - gifted women. This individual's life was, however, so full, so expansive, so varied, so noteworthy that she became a legend in her own time.

The subject was born Minnie Ryan, daughter of Patrick and Catherine Riley Ryan at North Hadley, Massachusetts in 1873. Mr. Ryan owned and operated a large tobacco and onion farm of about one hundred acres. He was considered to have been one of the most successful farmers in the



MRS. WILLIAM G. (Minnie R.) DWIGHT

valley. Old records speak of him as a highly respected citizen of the Town who served at one time as its Registrar of Voters. According to those who knew him well, he was a gentleman of keen intelligence, a reader of considerable depth, and a politician of high honor. That he was actively involved in the life of North Hadley is evident from the number of town committees to which he was appointed during his lifetime.

Of the thirteen children born to the Ryans, several died in infancy. Two of the number remaining were destined to become residents of Holyoke or the greater Holyoke area. On March 3, 1891, Minnie Ryan left her teaching position in North Hadley to become a reporter on the Holyoke Transcript. Later, her brother Arthur Ryan, upon graduation from Princeton in 1908 joined the same paper and became a distinguished journalist in his own right.

The young Miss Ryan displayed from the very outset a remarkable talent for news gathering. Her education, background and outgoing personality were claimed well-suited to the career of her choice. That she was a graduate of famed Hopkins Academy in Hadley undoubtedly was of some significance. She supplemented this background with courses at Mount Holyoke College. What really proved a great asset was her tremendous ability to establish rapport with people. She enjoyed talking with them, listening to them, feeling gay or sad with them. She was particularly endowed with a delicate sense of empathy for the plight of all humans regardless of nationality, color, creed, or circumstance.

The first turning point in Minnie Ryan's life was her marriage in 1896 to William G. Dwight owner of the paper. Mr. Dwight's first wife, Anna Bush of Burke, New York had died five years earlier. The new union was to augur well for the growth and development of the Transcript in the prosperous years ahead.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Dwight were blessed with a quick sense of discrimination between those events that were important, vital, or newsworthy and those that were not. With such a compatible partnership the paper began to assume a new and different posture. Policy changed. Problems and issues of the day were assessed and editorialized.

Mrs. William G. Dwight possessed something beyond the attributes that separate the few from the many. She recognized the crucial need to use the power of the press to inform, enlighten, and educate. Once she moved to the editorial page she molded the paper's policy to an espousal of every worthy cause, whether social, political or economic.

As an enthusiastic champion of women's rights, she committed the paper in the early days to a strong stand on women's suffrage. As zealot for the cause of child welfare, she decried editorially the tying of preschool children to beds while their mothers worked. The causes this woman sponsored and the battles she won through the paper's espousal and her indomitable courage were legion.

In 1911 Mrs. Dwight moved her editorial offices to her home. By this time three Dwight children had been born: two, Helen and Laura, immediately before the turn of the century, and one, William, a few short years later. Family life was

happy, warm, and interesting. People were always coming and going. It was about this time, or a few years earlier, that Pine Eden, the family's second home, was built in Fruitland Park, Florida. Each year Mr. and Mrs. Dwight spent a portion of the winter at Fruitland Park. It was a change for them but not a vacation. They continued to work, writing features, and editorials and dispatching them to Holyoke to meet the paper's deadlines. In addition, they wrote of Holyoke people who came to live in Florida or those who just came to visit there.

On March 31, 1930 the inevitable adventure destined for us all struck Pine Eden. Suddenly and without warning William G. Dwight died of a heart attack. On the one hundredth anniversary of his paper (1949) much was said of him, but these words, simply stated, indicate something of his character:

“William G. Dwight is known by older Holyokers as a plain man, genial, generous, a friend to all. Through the years he set an example of constant hard work. His working hours, 7:15 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., were kept up until his last departure from the office.”

After Mr. Dwight's death Mrs. Dwight assumed president-treasurer of the paper which had become just four years earlier the Holyoke Daily Transcript-Telegram through merger with Holyoke's other paper, “The Telegram”. At this point in Mrs. Dwight's life she had achieved not only success as a recognized newspaper editor, but also as a woman of stature in the community.

Her wide involvement in community affairs, political and social, conspired to make her in this writer's estimation Holyoke's most outstanding woman leader of the century. Mrs. Dwight had identified herself with numerous activities designed to improve the status of women. She was one of

the founders and first president of the Holyoke Women's Club, president of the Hampden County Women's Club, helped organize the Holyoke Business and Professional Women's Club, and Quota. She was, in addition, a Director of the Hampden County Improvement League for many, many years and served also as its president. She was elected to the Executive Committee of the Holyoke Chamber of Commerce and had risen eventually to the Vice Presidency of that august body.

Foremost of her many goals was a deep desire to make Holyoke a better place in which to live. Her own service to the city was boundless. She served with distinction on such notable boards as the War Memorial Commission, the Holyoke Public Library Association, the Child Welfare Commission and the Parks and Recreation Commission.

From earlier days when she fought insistently and consistently for women's rights, Mrs. Dwight took politics seriously. She played several leadership roles in Massachusetts Republican organizations down through the years. In addition to having been a charter member of the Massachusetts Women's Republican Club, she was delegate-at-large to the national Republican Convention of 1928.

Coincidentally, the same year (1949) that the Holyoke Transcript was celebrating its one-hundredth anniversary, Mount Holyoke College was also celebrating its Centennial. Mount Holyoke and the Transcript had an unusually fine relationship. Helen Clarke Dwight, wife of Dr. William Dwight and mother-in-law of Mrs. Minnie R. Dwight, was one of the pioneer students of

Mount Holyoke Female Seminary, later Mount Holyoke College. It is further coincidental that Dr. Dwight, father of William G. Dwight, delivered Minnie Ryan at her birth.

When Minnie Ryan joined the Transcript, she became a part-time student at Mount Holyoke where among other courses she undertook the study of Literature and German. An interesting item in connection with Mrs. William G. Dwight's early days at Mount Holyoke appeared in the Transcript's own centennial edition:

“When Minnie Ryan was a Transcript reporter back in 1895, before her marriage to editor William G. Dwight, she made daily trips to the South Hadley campus ---

She made the trips to the college in a horse and buggy with Byron Smith of South Hadley who came to Holyoke each morning to sell vegetables from his farm and to pay a call at the newspaper office . . . a stagecoach brought her back to the city. One year later a trolley line was opened.”

Mrs. William G. Dwight, according to a mutual acquaintance, “never would cut another woman down”. It was her opinion that women, as much as men, were vitally important to the welfare of any community; that women with ambition for personal betterment or zeal for a worthy cause should receive support and encouragement, not only from men but from other women also.

Minnie R. Dwight was a splendidly independent person with a high sense of decent pride and great self-reliance, the latter almost to a fault. An occasion is recalled where the subject, in her eighties at the time, went along with two friends to the University of Massachusetts to hear a lecture by a prominent speaker. On the threshold of the entrance to the lecture hall, she slipped and fell to the floor. The friends offered to help but to no

avail. She was adamant. "I must raise myself", she said firmly. And she did. It took several minutes and tremendous will power, but she did rise to her feet saying, "Let us go inside. I'm fine." Not another word was heard of the incident the remainder of the afternoon.

Mrs. Dwight was wont to say to the writer, "Never miss an opportunity to speak in public. Just make sure that when you do speak, have something worthwhile to say." This unusual woman had the knack of making people feel that they could accomplish the ultimate if they believed in what they were doing and willing to work hard to achieve a goal.

Quota Club Christmas parties at 387 Appleton Street were something to behold - the glitter of holiday sparkle blending with the sheen of beautiful evening gowns, the lobster curls and wassail bowl, the long dining table rich with molded salads, steaming meats, candied yams, and spiced apples.- These sights and sounds of Christmas will long be remembered by those fortunate enough to have been Quotarians at the time. There would be the singing of carols, the reading of an appropriate holiday selection, exchanging of gifts and finally, the collecting of donations for the "Ten Neediest Cases". The latter was an annual ritual strongly promoted by the hostess. Once the collection was counted, the amount would be announced and turned over immediately to a representative of Family Service.

Quota Christmas parties at Mrs. Dwight's home were traditional until those last years when her health had begun to decline. Her graciousness as a hostess extended to a number of groups with

which she was identified. Whether she was presiding as tourist guide of her lovely tulip gardens or presenting the Order of the Pearls to youthful 4-H awardees, she was always enthusiastic, gracious and convincing.

Mrs. Dwight is remembered, too, for having done the unexpected. For years and years she attended graduation exercises at Holyoke Trade High School. She was a familiar sight, sitting there on the platform smiling congratulations to each young man as he received his diploma. She never looked bored or indifferent or pompous. She was genuinely interested in the work of the Trade School and frequently stressed the need for the development of saleable skills. She was a great booster of trade training and especially of Holyoke Trade High School.

The life story of Minnie R. Dwight would fill a book in itself. One day, someone ought to write her biography.

Mr. William Dwight, only son of Mrs. Minnie R. Dwight, joined the paper permanently following completion of his studies at Princeton. He married Dorothy R. Rathbun, a native of Madison, New Jersey and a graduate of Wellesley College. Before her marriage to William Dwight, Dorothy Rathbun was a statistician with a New York City brokerage firm and was associated also, for a time, with the McGraw-Hill Publishing Company.

In a brief resume of her pre-marital career Mrs. Dwight speaks of the excitement of being independent and self-supporting in a city the size of New York. Women of her generation were just beginning to taste something of the new self-determination guaranteed in the passage of the



MRS. WILLIAM (Dorothy) DWIGHT

Nineteenth Amendment. Women's suffrage, it will be recalled, was promoted actively and vigorously by Mrs. William G. Dwight, her mother-in-law.

Mrs. Dorothy Dwight, from her first arrival in Holyoke, enjoyed a wide circle of friends. Other women admired and respected her. From the beginning, she identified herself with the community, offering volunteer service whenever and wherever she could. In her own words she defined her life goal in a short but meaningful statement, "hopefully to be useful always".

In the height of Mrs. Dorothy Dwight's service she did volunteer work in and for a number of community organizations: Mrs. Frederick's Neighborhood Settlement, Red Cross Blood Mobile, PTA, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Holyoke Hospital. She served, in addition, on a number of boards and on each exerted a strong leadership role. She was a member of Child Welfare, Girl Scout, and VNA Boards, a director of Holyoke Taxpayers' Association and Division Chairman of Community Chest for one term.

Mrs. Dorothy Dwight's contributions to the Holyoke community rank with the best. Evidence of her leadership extends to the Junior League, Mental Health and Speech Clinics, all of which she, along with others, was instrumental in founding.

When asked about the outlook for Holyoke in the future, she replied, "I am optimistic though Holyoke's economic situation is less healthy. I feel that united effort can and will turn the situation around."

In commenting on women in today's world she remarked, "I am glad to see that more recognition

and more opportunities are opening up for them but feel deeply that one of their most rewarding fields is the raising of good future leaders and good citizens."

Mrs. Dorothy Dwight could be described as a somewhat reserved, kindly, and generous woman with a pleasing personality. She has lived her own philosophy in the raising of two sons and one daughter: Donald, the Honorable Lt. Governor of the State of Massachusetts, William Dwight, Jr., Editor and Associate Publisher of the Transcript-Telegram, and Mary Emily now Mrs. George Wilson of Concord, New Hampshire.

Mrs. Dwight's hobbies, sewing and gardening, fill those hours not occupied with the promotion of good causes. She and her husband, William, Publisher of the Transcript-Telegram, live on Lindor Heights. Both have a deep concern for the future growth and development of this city.

William Wordsworth in his poem, "To The Daisy", has two lines which, in the writer's mind apply to Mrs. Dorothy Dwight:

"We meet thee like a pleasant thought
When such are wanted."

The two daughters-in law of Mrs. Dorothy Dwight have become involved in community affairs with the enthusiasm and verve of the Dwight women who preceded them. Maria Burgee Dwight, wife of William Dwight, Jr., and native of Holyoke, is a product of the city's public schools, Northampton School for Girls, and Bryn Mawr College. She is young, dynamic, and active. Being a mother of five children - William H., Leslie R., Valle E., Timothy M., and Ryan H. - is in itself no easy task. Add Consultant in Gerontology, and volunteer in public ser-

vice unlimited, and these give some idea of the drive and energy Maria B. Dwight possesses.

Mrs. Dwight's philosophy, "every day is important; don't waste a day" means the time to do anything is now. That explains her zeal for the present and her determination to get done whatever has to be done quickly, then move on to the next commitment.

Maria Dwight is fired with a deep and sincere interest in better conditions of living for the elderly, and has been quick to explain that one of the best things that could happen in this field is to de-institutionalize care for aging citizens. Her work in gerontology has been of such high calibre that she was awarded the American Association of Homes for the Aging Presidential Citation in 1972. Mrs. Dwight is, at this writing, Chairman of the Board of Geriatric Authority of Holyoke.

The list of Maria Dwight's welfare involvements seems endless. It can be said with certainty that whether leader or promoter of the many causes she has espoused, her service was never restricted to "in name only". She has actively participated and continues to do so. The scope of her activities include health and welfare related fields, housing, social service, and politics.

At different points in her adult life Maria Dwight served as board member on each of the following: Visiting Nurse Association, Holyoke Hospital School of Nursing, Family Services, Massachusetts Public Welfare, Community Redevelopment Program, Model Cities Development Corporation, and Hampshire College Advisory Council. Offices in various fields include:



MRS. WILLIAM (Maria Burgee) DWIGHT

Vice President, Western Massachusetts Health Planning Council; Past-Director of CROP (Community Action Program); Past President, Junior League of Holyoke; Past President, Urban Ministries, Incorporated. She is credited, too, with having served on the Civil Affairs Committee of the Holyoke Chamber of Commerce, has been co-sponsor of Junior Chamber Wives, and member of Young Woman of the Year Committee. She herself was a recipient of this award along with other citations too numerous to tabulate here.

Her involvement in programs for the culturally deprived and disadvantaged are worthy of note. When the public schools had no space to undertake Head Start she, along with Mrs. Robert (Joan Corcoran) Steiger and others, accepted the responsibility of organizing these programs. Indicative of the scope of Mrs. Dwight's endeavors was her active sponsorship of the United Negro Scholarship Fund.

In remarking on the state of the city at this point in history, Mrs. Dwight expressed impatience with the time it takes to get things moving. She felt great concern for its economic and social plight but believed along with most women interviewed, old or young, that Holyoke has great potential.

Mrs. Dwight evinced strong concern regarding the outcome of the Vietnam War; felt heartsick at the bombing, and seemed sad too, at the lack of recent reaction to the bombing itself. Her faith she said in substance, was in our young people. "I have great faith in them", she reiterated.

Mrs. Dwight, too, expressed succinctly and firmly her opinion about women in today's world.



MRS. DONALD (Susan Russell) DWIGHT

“It’s a great age to be a woman”, she said. “A great age to be a woman.”

More will be heard of the young Mrs. Dwight in the challenging years ahead.

Mrs. Susan Russell Dwight, wife of the Hon. Lt. Governor Donald Dwight, is also a Holyoke native and a product of this city’s public schools, Emma Willard School and Mount Holyoke College. She comes of a fine old distinguished Holyoke family. Her father, grandfather and uncles were respected businessmen in this community for many years.

She is recognized among her peers as a totally fine young person, gentle, sincere, and warm hearted. She has all the characteristics necessary for one whose husband holds the second highest office in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Many have commented on her grace, poise, and pleasing manner.

Mrs. Susan Dwight’s primary interest is her family. She replied when queried about a goal in life, “I try to reach out as far as possible to fulfill the needs of my family, my husband and the community.” That these goals are being achieved is evident from the conscientiousness with which she pursues her duties as wife, mother, hostess, and volunteer.

In her own quiet way, Susan Dwight is a woman who gets things done. Beyond her family she is committed to the cause of Early Childhood Education, Day Care for children of working mothers, and projects in the Arts.

Before moving to the Boston area, Mrs. Dwight helped in the organization of a project called, Art Goes to School in South Hadley. She has initiated

this and other similar programs in Boston area schools in cooperation with De Cordova Museum. She has a special talent for seeking and getting the cooperation of people. Only recently she was instrumental in bringing small music ensembles from the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston to Holyoke's public schools so that "on the spot" music appreciation sessions could be held in the elementary and junior high schools.

Mrs. Susan Dwight has long been identified with the Junior League of Holyoke where she was an indefatigable worker. In addition to club and volunteer activities, she is involved in politics on a statewide scale, is considered a hospitable hostess, and a lover of the outdoors. Like all well-rounded personalities she has several hobbies among which are sewing, skiing, sailing and tennis.

When asked about Holyoke's stake in the future, hers was an answer advanced by a significant number of women with whom the same question was raised.

"I see Holyoke as being in an important transitional stage. No longer supported by the textile and paper industries the city must seek out a new and broader economic base and a new and stronger relationship with surrounding communities in order to fulfill the needs of her citizens."

She also voiced her opinion on women in today's world. Her thought on the matter is worthy of note:

"Although it has become easier for a woman to compete in what is often called a man's world, I think of Minnie Ryan Dwight and others like her who were able to combine successfully profession,

home, family and community service long before Women's Lib. . . . Increased opportunity for women brings increased responsibility and challenge: what the few have always done is now available to many."

Mrs. Susan Dwight has the kind of personality that will wear well with the enveloping years. If Lt. Donald Dwight chooses to continue his political career, Mrs. Dwight will surely be his strongest ally and greatest asset.

Five children were born to the Donald Dwights: Dorothy C., Laura N., Eleanor A., Arthur R., and Stuart R.

Dwight women have played significant leadership roles in the Holyoke community these past one hundred years. On this, the occasion of the city's Centennial, they deserve a special tribute and a resounding salute!

CHAPTER IV

WOMEN IN THE ARTS

"All that is good in Art (the Arts) is the expression of one soul talking to another, and is precious according to the greatness of the soul that utters it."

- JOHN RUSKIN -

The Arts have always enjoyed a special and distinctive romance somewhat completely their own. Even from the evolution of earliest man this has been so and ever will it continue to be thus as long as human life exists on this oblate spheroid we call, Earth.

In unfolding the scroll that was Holyoke's history this century just past, it is not surprising to find the contribution of women in the Arts to have been quite substantial. Many to whom we owe much are remembered for the joy, the magic, and the fantasy they created through the expressive Arts. From the earliest days of the city's founding to the evolving present, Holyoke women in goodly numbers have excelled in one or more of such stirring humanizers as music, painting, literature, opera, drama, and the dance. Though some of these overlap, each branch is in a sense, a separate entity; yet, in another sense, all are intimately related for they have at least one thing in common. They elevate the spirit and thus give delight to the soul.

Our city has become through the enveloping years a much happier and more humane community in which to live because of those men and women who in groping for beauty themselves brought both beauty and culture to the lives of others.

Among the first of the Arts to unite people was music. Mrs. Austin Lyman (Louise Richards) Shumway was one of the earliest leaders of vocal music in the city. She is said to have possessed a beautiful voice and most magnetic personality, a woman with the ability to lead. The mother of nine children, she found time, nevertheless, to direct musical groups in the old Congregational Church until the arrival of William Churchill Hammond in 1885.

In the world of music, Mrs. William Churchill Hammond (Fanny Bliss Reed), wife of the incomparable W. C. Hammond, enjoyed a singularly distinctive place all her own. The daughter of Rev. Dr. E. A. Reed, long time early pastor of Second Church, she was a talented, cultured, and muchly beloved woman. She was one of the city's first teachers of piano. For years countless numbers of Holyoke's children had the privilege of studying piano under her tutelage. Annual recitals of her pupils were a delight to attend. There was a certain pomp and ceremony about them - the reception line, the flurry of excitement expressed by the pupils' parents, picture-taking for the paper, and finally the children's renditions of classical compositions by the masters.

It will be recalled, too, that Mrs. Hammond was caretaker of Miss Belle Skinner's fabulous collection of rare and unique musical instruments housed in the conservatory of Wistariahurst for so many, many years.

Through her distinguished husband Mrs. Hammond was acquainted with musicians prominent nationally and internationally. As custodian of the Skinner collection, she also became acquainted

with connoisseurs of musical instruments from all corners of the globe.

It was Mrs. Hammond's mother, Mrs. E. A. Reed who founded the Music Club of greater Holyoke in 1889. Mrs. Hammond, nee Fanny Reed, was the organization's first president.

One of the early great performers in music was Marie Lecea Brackman born in Holyoke in 1873. Her first local appearance which led later to voice training was that of soloist in a performance sponsored by St. Jerome Temperance Society, and held at City Hall early in the 1890's. In 1894 following her acclaim locally as a gifted singer, she enrolled in the New York Conservatory of Music where she studied voice. After only two months at the Conservatory, the institution arranged her first New York concert. So appealing was her singing that an agent for the Henry W. Savage Company invited Miss Brackman to join the Savage troupe. For one season she performed each Sunday evening at Carnegie Hall as a member of the Murray Lane Opera Company. From that year forward she spiraled to fame as soloist with the Ben Hur Company in concerts produced by Oscar Hammerstein, and eventually as soloist with the Philharmonic Orchestra and Boston Symphony. As singing partner of Herbert Witherspoon, leading bass soloist of the Metropolitan Opera House, Miss Brackman attained the pinnacle of success. She also received "rave" notices internationally for her stirring performance in the Gainsboro Girl. Press releases were, without exception, most favorable. Some of these are cited to indicate the respect in which this talented woman was held:

New York Tribune - "Miss Brackman possesses a voice of wonderful power and range."

London Herald - "Miss Brackman possesses a voice of great beauty, elasticity and power."

Joe L. Markham, former columnist and feature writer for the Transcript, wrote in that paper April 3, 1950 the following:

"Marie Brackman achieved fame with her voice. Hers was a long and successful career, ending on a night in June in the year 1926. City Hall was crowded with hometown admirers of the noted dramatic soprano."

Miss Marie Brackman has relatives residing in Holyoke today. Notable among these is Mr. Arthur Roberts, Director of Athletics, Holyoke High School, a nephew.

About the same time Miss Brackman was performing in America and Europe as a singer of note, Miss Jane Burby, also a Holyoke native, was performing as a character actress on Broadway. Miss Burby was born in Holyoke 1872 and lived at 127 Pine Street during most of her developmental years. Following graduation from Holyoke High School, class of 1888, she went to New York to study acting at the Dion Boucicault School, connected with the Madison Square Theatre.

It is curiously coincidental that Miss Burby, like Miss Brackman, was given her start stageward in the city of her birth. In 1887 at a special performance held at City Hall, Jane R. Burby (in those days known as Jennie R. Burby) gave several readings and was well received by the audience. Miss Burby was still a student at Holyoke High School at the time. That same year, Holyoke High School conducted a prize speaking contest at the

Opera House. Though Jane Burby won second prize, the editorial reviewer (Transcript, March 16, 1887) said of her performance:

“Miss Burby was unquestionably the most interesting of the contestants. Her gestures were perfect, and in this respect she would compare favorably with any of the so-called stars of the stage.”

In New York Miss Burby achieved almost instant fame, first playing leads and later character roles. She spent more than fifty years in the theatre. Her stardom took her to all the big city playhouses. She toured first in stock and later in musical comedy.

Jane Burby was noted for her acting versatility although in her own words, she enjoyed the role of character actress best. On Broadway she played with such notables of her time as May Irwin, James K. Hackett, Kate Clayton and a score of other greats or near greats. On several occasions she appeared at the Cape Playhouse in Dennis, Northampton's Academy of Music, Springfield's Court Square and, in Holyoke's heyday of drama, at the Holyoke Opera House.

Though Miss Burby's permanent home address was New York, she came to Holyoke periodically to visit relatives and friends. Miss Burby married Charles Collins, a theatrical producer. One child, Henrietta Collins Starrett, became an illustrator for the Saturday Evening Post. Her granddaughter, Mrs. Charlotte Ramage, rose to fame as illustrator. Miss Burby's sister Charlotte left Holyoke at an early age and opened eventually an exclusive millinery shop on Fifth Avenue. A nephew of Miss Burby, Dr. Francis Lesperance is a resident of South Hadly. Her nieces, the former Collins sisters,



THE COLLINS SISTERS

were famous area musicians. The Burby family, including its heirs, was gifted beyond the average.

Mrs. Erma Collins Devlin, who lived in Holyoke until recently, spoke of her great aunt as having been a deeply religious woman and an exceptionally good Christian. Her mind, she said, was always keen, her memory excellent and her wit ready.

From the reviews Jane Burby received, she was unquestionably a great actress, a fine person and a credit to the city of her birth.

There will be those who can go back to the early days of radio and recall the Collins Concert Trio, regular performers on Station WMAS, then located at the Hotel Stonehaven in Springfield.

The Collins sisters - Erma, Frances, Laurentia and Henrietta possessed rare musical talent. Erma, the oldest, was an outstanding piano pupil of Haven White Lunn, rated a well-regarded and highly popular teacher of the twenties and thirties. Frances, a gifted saxophonist, was performing in public at an unusually early age. Laurentia, violinist, was considered, even at ten, something of a musical genius. Henrietta, the youngest, pupil of the Hillberger School of Dancing, appeared in dance recitals from pre-kindergarten age through young adulthood.

Erma, Frances and Laurentia - the Collins Concert Trio - enjoyed stardom in the late 1920's and early 30's as regular guests of Stations WBZ and WMAS. At the time of their first radio program, Erma was scarcely more than a teenager; Frances and Laurentia were still in school.

Their radio reception was tremendous. Fan mail was voluminous. Much of it was made available to the writer to document the joy the Collins Concert Trio brought to numerous listeners. Quotes of but a small sampling of the fan mail sent to the WMAS studio serve to confirm the popularity of the Collins' Concerts:

"Please accept a word of appreciation for the splendid music offered by the Collins Trio . . . you are to be complimented on the kinds of programs that are being given." L.A.D.

"I am writing to you to tell you how much we have enjoyed the Collins Trio. . . We are looking forward to hearing them many more times in the future." -An Ardent Listener

"All the selections (of the Collins Trio) seem to be well chosen and are rendered with great musical skill. We need more music of such loftiness." -J.M.L.

"The program of the Collins Trio ranks in my estimation as being of the highest type of entertainment you could offer on your new station." -An Entertained Listener

Similar compliments could be duplicated over and over again.

Four o'clock Sunday radio concerts of the Collins Trio will long be remembered by those privileged to have heard them. Because their repertoire ranged from the musical comedy variety, to semi-classical and chamber music, the Trio was much in demand in the twenties and thirties. They played for church functions, commencement exercises, clubs, teas and auto shows, veterans' groups, Girl Scout rallies, and benefits.

An interesting aside in the story of the Collins Sisters has to do with the writer who in 1929 wrote and produced her first play *Carrots*. The Collins

Trio appeared in that production. At the time the author planned on achieving instant fame as a playwright. How fragile the stuff of which dreams are made.!

P.S. The Collins sisters were magnificent. The author's play, however, never did reach Broadway.

Wherever the Collins sisters performed, they were well received for a number of reasons. All four not only possessed innate talent, but also a kind of wistful beauty and unassuming manner that immediately captivated their diverse audiences. Too, they were young ladies of refinement - unaffected, unsophisticated, and genuine. Their appeal was multi-faceted. Their great aunt, Miss Jane Burby, would have been proud of them.

The Trio disbanded when the first member married. Erma, now retired, was especially active in the Holyoke community all her adult life. She entered the business world following graduation from Bay Path. In 1954 she reached the top when she became the first woman appointed Treasurer of the Soldiers' Home on Cherry Street. Prior to that she was secretary to the Superintendent of the same institution. She held the high office of Treasurer with honor and distinction until her retirement in 1971.

Always a model Quotarian, she was elected president of that organization for two terms, 1960-61 and 1961-1962. Now, as Mrs. Donald Devlin, she and her husband live in retirement in North Adams where both enjoy golf and where Erma creates music.

Eva Tanguay, popular singer and dancer, was one of Holyoke's great stage artists. Miss Tanguay



MRS. L. ARTHUR WILLISTON
(As she appeared in "Manon")

was, in the opinion of many, a most attractive woman. She wore clothes well, had considerable poise, and maintained even in her later years a kind of elan and *joie de vivre* possessed by few.

In the height of her theatrical career, Miss Tanguay had become an international star and had accumulated a fortune. Her innumerable performances in this country and abroad brought joy and laughter to thousands of people.

Miss Tanguay was known and frequently billed as "The I Don't Care Girl". She was an individual who loved life and seemed never to lose her thirst for song and laughter.

It might be said of Miss Tanguay, that her music flowed from the heart; it was her song of life.

In May of 1971 a noted lyric soprano was laid to rest at the age of ninety. Mary Quirk Williston, widow of L. Arthur Williston, was one of Holyoke's great ladies whose life spanned nearly the course of a century.

Mary Quirk Williston came to Holyoke as a child and, except when on tour as a professional singer, lived here most of her life. She was educated in the city's public schools, Mount Holyoke College (Class of 1902), and Boston University. From the latter she was recipient of a Master's Degree in Music Education. But training did not stop there.

Mary Williston studied voice in New York City, and Paris, France. Eventually, she made her debut in Carnegie Hall as a lyric soprano. Success came almost overnight. For years she toured the United States, Canada, and Europe with various traveling opera companies. Following her

marriage, she retired from the professional stage to open and operate music studios in Holyoke and Springfield. Her success as a noted teacher of voice was instantaneous. In her eighties, Mrs. Williston was still engaged in the active teaching of voice in this city.

Not only was Mary Williston an outstanding teacher of vocal music and a true artist; she also had an avid interest in community life. Her leadership in Holyoke's many women's clubs rivaled the best anywhere. In every club she was immediately recognized as a potential leader. In her time, she was president of the Women's Club, president of Holyoke Music Club, and president of Quota Club. She even toured the Middle West and New York State to organize Quota Clubs in key cities.

Mary Williston was truly a woman of stature. She never lost the enthusiasm of her youth. She moved gracefully with the years ever in tune with the moving present. Along the way she endeared herself to many, including the writer and her family.

Mrs. Williston had great faith in youth and never begrudged a compliment to an aspiring artist. As was true of the late Minnie R. Dwight, Mrs. Williston, too, never belittled another woman leader. There is an old Roman saying, "Dignum laude virum, Musa vetat mori", which translated means, "The hero (or heroine) who is worthy of praise, the Muse forbids to die." Though Mary Williston no longer moves among us, the Muse will not permit her unbridled spirit to vanish into nothingness.

One of Holyoke's most elegant living artists is Mary Brewster Davenport, daughter of the Hon. Judge and Mrs. Russell L. Davenport of South Hadley. A native of Holyoke, Miss Davenport attended the public schools of this city, Northampton School for Girls and Aurora College in New York. Later she studied at Bedford University in London and the Curtis School of Music from which she was awarded a scholarship to study abroad. Attesting to her success as an artist is the fact that approximately a decade back Miss Davenport was named as one of the ten most illustrious alumnae of Curtis.

The possessor of a rich, powerful, and well-trained contralto voice, Miss Davenport's professional services have been and continue to be in great demand. Whether on the American or European concert stage, Mary Davenport was and is tremendously popular. She has performed with the big name orchestras here and abroad. For more than a decade she was a member of the Altistan Opera Company, a troupe that enjoyed remarkable receptions in Mannheim and Zurich.

Miss Davenport is at this point in time an Assistant Professor of Music at Boston University. The gifted singer finds time, nevertheless, to fulfill singing engagements on the concert stage and occasionally, too, to sing for church groups and benefits.

It is said of Miss Davenport that she never looks world-weary despite the hectic pace of teaching, singing engagements, and travel. One who knows her best sums it up this way, "All her life Mary has striven for technical perfection in her art. She never stops studying. It is her remarkably



MARY BREWSTER DAVENPORT

outgoing personality and love for music that keeps her going. Her striving for perfection has not interfered with her zest for living. She is a happy, gregarious, exceptional person.”

The joy Miss Mary Davenport has brought to others through her music is immeasurable. Though Miss Davenport no longer lives in this city, Holyoke is proud to claim her as a gifted daughter.

It is rather sad that the day of the piano teacher, except in rare instances, is rapidly becoming a thing of the past. Most of Holyoke's great teachers of piano are moving into their retirement years and younger women are not, in comparable numbers, succeeding them. Where twenty-five years ago, it was a symbol of culture and even status “to take piano lessons”, today children and youth seem no longer interested. Pianos in homes are getting to be rare; if something must be eliminated to make space for something else, the piano is the first to go.

Holyoke has had several great music teachers, particularly teachers of the piano: Emma Miller Berman, deceased; Ruth Hubbard Heidner, Nan Newell, Edith Snell Gardner, deceased; Helen Parker O'Connor, and Virginia P. Quirk. All have done their share to improve the cultural level of the community.

Edith Snell Gardner has been called Holyoke's “Grand Lady of Music”. Well she might be. Mrs. Gardner began teaching piano at fifteen and taught the skills of that instrument for approximately seventy-three years from 1893 to 1966.

Mrs. Gardner was a professional of great talent. It is claimed she began the study of piano at

the age of four and continued studying through adulthood. As a young woman she studied under two great pianists of the day, Joseph Levine in Berlin and Percy Granger in New York City. In her younger years she did tour periodically as a concert pianist; most of her life, however, was devoted to teaching.

In the judgment of her peers in Music, Edith Snell Gardner was one of a kind. Practically her entire life was spent promoting music, especially among the children and youth in Holyoke. Her sense of rhythm, tone, structure and technique were so remarkable that even her colleagues frequently looked to her for advice and counsel.

Mrs. Gardner was a member of the Holyoke Music Club of which she was president in 1919. She also served as the first director of the Junior Extension Club which she, along with Virginia P. Quirk, had been instrumental in founding in 1939.

Edith Snell Gardner went to her eternal reward January of 1968. She was in her ninetieth year. Mary Quirk Williston (Mrs. L. Arthur), herself a great vocal artist, paid this tribute to Edith Gardner on the occasion of her passing:

“ . . . with all of us will remain the memory of her lovely smile which often reflected a deep spirituality.” (1)

For the writer there is a twinge of sadness mixed with nostalgia as she inscribes in this book the name of Mrs. Harry (Emma Miller) Berman. Here was a gifted musician, cultured lady, and cherished personal friend.

The writer in less busy days often attended, on invitation, Emma Berman's piano recitals which,

(1) Holyoke Transcript-Telegram - February 10, 1968 p.16

incidentally, were most memorable affairs. Each recital could in itself be called a thing of beauty and grace. First, there were the pupils who arrived early in their very best party clothes. There was the hostess receiving her guests with an air of joyousness and accomplishment. And there were the parents! In subdued excitement they sat waiting and wondering whether their loved ones could meet the challenge of the evening. The room was charged with mixed feelings of awe on the one hand, and expectancy, on the other.

Finally, the moment came for each pupil to perform. The music always quite, quite grand put the audience in a receptive and relaxed mood. Even among the youngest of pupils, there were no fumblings, no theatrics, no tears. After the program, all moved to the dining center where the gleaming samovar beckoned adults to coffee. Silver plates laden with sandwiches and small cakes made the evening a pleasant experience for parents, pupils, and guests.

Only those who knew Emma Berman well could understand fully the deep communion she enjoyed with things of the spirit. She loved music and she sought to instill something of this love in the children and youth who came to her for training. She saw in each pupil a spark of the Divine; to develop that spark through music was the premise on which her whole teaching career was predicated.

Mrs. Berman was not native to Holyoke. She came to the city from Hartford in 1935 following her marriage. Soon after arrival she opened a studio in her home. She prepared for her life's work at Hart School of Music in Hartford under

direction of the well-known Moshe Paranov, and periodically took refresher courses with master musicians in New York City.

Rabbi Daniel A. Jezer in eulogizing Mrs. Berman said of her:

"It is indeed fitting that on her final week with us she had a piano recital. . . . Just as Beethoven ended his great symphonic writings with a glorious Ode to Joy, so did Emma Berman end her piano teaching with an Ode to Joy, the delightful music of her students."

There are many who remember the 75th Anniversary of the City of Holyoke and the role Emma Berman played in it. She created the production which portrayed the role the Jewish people played in the history of this city. The name of the Cantata she produced and conducted, "Woman of Valor", indeed was she, "a woman of valor"⁽²⁾ This was indeed a fitting tribute to Emma Miller Berman - artist, musician, humanist, and outstanding teacher.

Ruth Hubbard Heidner, Holyoke native, was educated in this city's schools and was graduated in 1913 from Mount Holyoke College. While at Mount Holyoke she specialized in Music, taking almost every Music course the college offered at the time⁽³⁾ Though subject majors were not common in liberal arts colleges of that day, she did matriculate in what would be called a Music Major in college curriculums of the present.

Unlike her colleagues in Music, Mrs. Heidner became a Music teacher by chance; she did not plan it that way. Her first piano pupil came to her as the result of what might be called a command

(2) Eulogy delivered at Emma Berman's funeral - January 5, 1971.

(3) Shea, E. L. - Feature Story in Holyoke Transcript-Telegram - May 16, 1971.

performance. It happened that her minister's wife, Mrs. Robert R. Wicks, asked Mrs. Heidner in 1925 to take on her daughter as a piano pupil. This marked the beginning of a long and fruitful career as teacher of piano. Not only Mrs. Heidner's talent in Music has accounted for her success as an outstanding Music teacher; her personality factors, too, have endeared her to all with whom she has come in contact. A woman of culture and refinement, she exhibits the grace, charm, and manner associated with good breeding.

Mrs. Heidner has used her musical aptitude to serve church and community. In a brief chat the writer had with Mrs. Heidner it was learned that upon graduation from Mount Holyoke, she studied organ with William Churchill Hammond who let it be known Miss Hubbard was a gifted pupil. After a year's study, he invited her to become his assistant, a station in which she served admirably until his death. This active woman also had charge of the Girls' Choir at Second Congregational Church for a number of years.

Mrs. Heidner has enjoyed membership in the Holyoke Music Club for a quarter of a century. She is also a member of the Westminster Library Club and a sponsor of Community Concerts, Inc.

"Life has been good to me," she told the writer. "I have been happily married for fifty-five years and have a wonderful family." Her husband, Raymond F., operated the Heidner Music Store (originally founded by his father, J. C. Heidner, in 1878) until 1960 when it was sold to Del Padre. Four children were born to the Heidners, two sons and two daughters all of whom are married.



MRS. RAYMOND C. HEIDNER and PUPILS

"She loves children - all children," a mutual friend told the writer. "Each one of her pupils she treats as if he were her own."

Mrs. Howard (Virginia P.) Quirk taught piano in Holyoke for forty-five years. Her own preparation for teaching was rich and varied. She began the private study of Music with Haven White Lunn and later studied also privately with Arthur Freidheimer of New York. Further training at the New York School of Music and Arts with special work in pianoforte at Florence, Italy provided the basic preparation necessary for private teaching.

Mrs. Quirk, a refined and cultured lady, and a sincere musician, has taught hundreds of children not only the mechanics and art of piano playing, but she has, along the way, instilled in her pupils a love for and appreciation of good music.

Her recitals often attended by the writer (who had several nieces and nephews in her classes) were social events of great importance. They were the kind of formal occasions long recalled by the young pianists some of whom years later would remark, "Remember those beautiful recitals at Mrs. Quirk's home."

Mrs. Quirk, along with the late Edith Snell Gardner, helped found the Junior Extension Music Club and the Junior Extension's Scholarship Fund. She has served as treasurer and director of the Music Club for seventeen years and has also served as president of the Music Club of Greater Holyoke.

For many years Virginia Puliti Quirk and Helen Parker O'Connor performed as duo-pianists in the Music Club under the able tutelage of



MRS. HOWARD (Virginia Puliti) QUIRK

Harrison Potter, Professor Emeritus of Mount Holyoke College. Mrs. Quirk's whole lifetime was devoted to the teaching of music and music appreciation.

Another noteworthy pianist, Helen Parker O'Connor, has spent upwards of twenty-five years teaching piano to selected children in this community. In the estimation of her peers, Mrs. O'Connor is a high type woman, especially gifted in Music, one who has devoted a large share of her life promoting cultural activities in this City.

Holyoke native, Mrs. O'Connor was educated in the city's elementary schools, and Holyoke High School. Following graduation, she first studied with the great William Churchill Hammond; later, she became a private pupil of Professor Edward Hughes in New York City.

Home, piano pupils, and Music have been Helen Parker O'Connor's life. The writer knows this fine person as a woman who lives her Christianity, one ever willing to help others. Her avocation is most unusual. She has, through the years, sought out, with a will to help, hard-of-hearing persons who could profit from instruction. She has encouraged many to join lip reading classes in Holyoke and Springfield.

Mrs. O'Connor is a gregarious person by nature, enjoys people, and loves Music. A long time member of the Holyoke Music Club, she has on occasion spent countless hours in preparation for program presentations. She frequently has played piano duets with another gifted teacher, Virginia Puliti Quirk.

Mrs. O'Connor's hobby is history through button collecting. She possesses a grand collection of



MRS. VIRGINIA PULITI QUIRK and
MRS. HELEN PARKER O'CONNOR
(in Piano Duets)

buttons of every period, kind, color, and design. She has been quite active in the Button Club.

She is married to James O'Connor whose grandfather was Mayor of Holyoke in the very young days of the city's development. She is herself imbued with the spirit that built and nurtured the city in its hundred years of existence. She loves Holyoke with rare intensity and seeks today, especially through Music, to perpetuate culture on a high and meaningful level through active interest and participation in the city's several cultural endeavors.

Mrs. Nan Newell, gifted pianist, taught piano lessons in Holyoke from 1925 to 1940. Mrs. Newell was delightful to know. She had an easy way about her, the kind of disposition that makes people feel wanted and welcome. Her services to the Holyoke community extended far beyond the teaching of

piano. Back in the twenties, thirties, and forties, she was extremely active in clubs and musical circles. Her cultural contributions to the life of Holyoke before her retirement rank with the best.

As a pianist and organist of note, Mrs. Newell's services were in constant demand. For twenty-seven years she was organist for funerals at Alger Funeral Home; for thirty-two years at First Church of Christian Science; she was accompanist, too, for Mrs. L. A. Williston in the latter's teaching years.

There was nothing of the temperamental about Mrs. Newell. If she had a task to perform she did it graciously and seemingly without effort. She was one to share her talent generously. Older Quotarians will remember Mrs. Newell's performances at Mrs. Dwight's Christmas parties. She would accompany community singing hours on end. So it was with other circles in which she moved.

Mrs. Newell served as president of the Holyoke Music Club on its Fiftieth Anniversary. Until her retirement she belonged to the American Guild of Organists and was an active Quotarian. She now makes her home in Westfield with her daughter. Her son, Homer Newell, has achieved national prominence as a Director of NASA, National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

A number of Holyoke women, fine musicians all, have excelled as outstanding teachers of music down through the years. Some, in addition, served our churches with distinction as devoted and able organists. It is curious, too, that with a few notable exceptions, most church organists have been women. One of the earliest of these, Miss Anna Nelligan, was a woman of considerable talent and

spirit who dedicated most of her life to the service of Sacred Heart Church.

Miss Nelligan, a stately, reticent, strong-willed woman, decided not only the kind of music that should be played and sung but also who would sing what at various church functions. A student of sacred music, she never was known to depart from what she and other scholars of her day considered the highest form of spiritual expression. Miss Nelligan also taught a limited number of students. It was said of her that she pre-tested prospective students and would accept as pupils only those she considered to have talent worthy of development.

Another gifted organist of about the same period was Grace Harkins, sister of Monsignor John Harkins. Miss Harkins was the first organist at St. Jerome Church. Serving the church, but at a later period, was Helen Murray Gibson. Mrs. Gibson possessed, as did the Misses Harkins and Nelligan, sensitive and sincere qualities of fine musicianship. A gracious, friendly, and relaxed person, Mrs. Gibson endeared herself to parishioners at Rosary Church, where she was organist for many years, and St. Jerome Church from which she retired as organist several years ago.

Of a later period still was Catherine Smitty Pratt, who for thirty-five years, 1930-1965, served as choir director and organist of Our Lady of the Rosary Church. Mrs. Pratt had the advantage of excellent training in music. After graduation from Rosary High School, she attended St. Joseph's Conservatory of Music following which she studied with Hans Barth of New York. Mrs. Pratt, a certified teacher of piano and organ, taught both most

of her life. She still teaches a limited number of pupils.

Throughout her more active days, her talent was widely sought and acclaimed. She accompanied regularly several musical ensembles. Among these were the Art Male Quartet and choral groups of the Elks and Knights of Columbus. Mrs. Pratt holds membership in the New England Pianoforte Teachers' Association and the National Guild of Organists. She is also a Charter Member of Holyoke's Community Concert Association. A high point in her career, according to Mrs. Pratt herself, was when she was selected to be the first guest organist of a TV Mass telecast by an area television station.

Mrs. Pratt is a happy, active, optimistic person. Her interest in life and music is contagious. She is that kind of individual. For one who has traveled widely, home to her - Holyoke - is best. In speaking of her native city, she says enthusiastically, "No matter where you go, you are glad to come home. There is no place like it."

One of the grand elders of a fine musical heritage is Alice Browne Smith, organist at Holy Cross Church for forty-three years. Mrs. Smith comes of a long line of musicians. A grandfather played harp and violin professionally; her father was violinist with the old Holyoke Opera House Orchestra in the heyday of that institution's fame. An uncle was a professional trumpet player.

Mrs. Smith, native of Holyoke, was educated in the city's schools. Following completion of her basic education, she attended the Institute of Musical Art (now the Juilliard School of Music) from which she was graduated with a major in

piano and organ. Following graduation, she began teaching instrumental music at Routt College, Jacksonville, Illinois, an institution no longer in existence. After three years at Routt, she returned to Holyoke to teach piano and organ. This she has done for half a century.

Mrs. Smith is a splended musician and an amazing person. Mother of seven and grandmother of thirty-three she still serves Holy Cross Church with the zeal and vigor of a much younger woman.

A most active organist of the living present, Kathryn M. Bretschneider, has a deep interest in and love for the city of her birth. Her family roots run deep in the history of this city where her forbears have lived and served before and after the turn of the century. Grandfather Bretschneider was a member of Holyoke's City Council (now called the Board of Aldermen) seventy-five years ago. Grandfathers on the maternal and paternal side of the family, respectively, were businessmen and property owners back in the earliest days of the city's founding.

Miss Bretschneider is a product of Holyoke schools. She has had the rare advantage of private study in piano under the tutelage of a professor from the Conservatory of Leipzig. Intensive instruction in sacred music at St. Joseph's Conservatory and study of the organ at Mount Holyoke have provided her with the kind of rich background necessary for pursuit of excellence in music.

In her own words Miss Bretschneider confesses, "My life is my music. I have spent thirty years teaching piano and thirty-six years as church organist. My music is more pleasure than work."

Her hours are full. As orgainst at Blessed Sacrament Church she must play at the Masses, weddings, funerals, and special services. In between she is busy teaching piano or organ.

“Music”, Miss Bretschneider says, “is communicating with people. As such it is an exciting and rewarding experience for performer and listener.”

Kathryn Bretschneider was one of the original founders of the Holyoke Community Concert Association and was secretary of that organization for twenty years. The Concert Association is now in its twenty-fifth year of service to the Community. Miss Bretschneider is also an active member of the Massachusetts Music Teachers' Association.

As to where Holyoke is at this point in history, she is one who believes that now is a time of challenge, a time when good people must band together to keep Holyoke a wholesome, productive and thriving place in which to work, play, and worship.

Regarding women in today's world, she has this to say, “I'm all for equal pay for equal work, but I truly like distinction in appearance and style.” She was of the opinion, too, that something very precious would be lost if men's respect and gallantry toward women disappear in the confusion of changing values.

Miss Bretschneider seems to be at home with all periods of music. There is an European folk tale that claims when a baby was born in Bohemia, next to his cradle were placed a silver spoon and a violin. If the baby's hand moved in the direction of the spoon, the child would grow up to become a

rich man or a thief; if, however, the child's hand stretched out in the direction of the violin, the baby would grow up to be a musician.

If a piano or organ chanced to have been near Kathryn M. Bretschneider, it was toward the piano or organ she most assuredly must have pointed, for today she is a spirited artist and a fine person.

Mrs. Robert A. (Helen E. Downing) Ezold, organist, choir director, and teacher of Music is a professional musician of high repute in the Holyoke community. She, as many natives of Holyoke, was graduated from Holyoke High School. In 1937, she earned a Baccalaureate Degree from the University of Massachusetts where she majored in music. She has been identified with the field of musicology for nearly forty years.

Mrs. Ezold is not only a professional musician, she is also a promoter of Music in the greater Holyoke community. Her appearances as a professional pianist and organist have been numerous. For the past seventeen years she has been organist and choir director at Sacred Heart Church. Her versatility at both piano and organ has resulted in professional engagements on stage, radio, and television. She has been official piano accompanist for the American Guild of Music Convention Concerts in such metropolitan cities as New York, Cincinnati, Chicago and Minneapolis. She also served and continues to serve as musical director for productions of clubs, guilds, and choral groups.

Mrs. Ezold distinguishes between her efforts in church music and her goals in teaching music. "My church work", Mrs. Ezold explains, "is for the honor and glory of God. My music teaching is to

help (people) develop self-expression, creativity, self-confidence and poise . . . to help people make better use of their leisure time.”

Her philosophy of life is to do the best with what she has and to help others whenever possible. Though music plays a dominant role in her life style, Mrs. Ezold is quick to add, “My life goal is to be a good wife, good mother, and good citizen.”

Mrs. Ezold is recognized by other musicians as a woman of broad talent in music, one sensitive to the value of the arts in the elevation of the human spirit. She has done much to bring music to “all the children of all the people,” but especially those who cannot always afford to pay to hear good music.

She it was who sparked the idea for outdoor “pop” concerts. While manager of the City Band, Mrs. Ezold, along with Union Presidents Andrew Methot and Charles Wall, prevailed upon two Mayors, the late Edwin Seibel and former Mayor Samuel Resnic, to have the city support, through the Parks and Recreation Department, summer outdoor band concerts that could be attended without fee. She was successful in accomplishing her goal and concerts were conducted throughout the city during the incumbencies of both Mayors.

Helen Downing Ezold was the first woman admitted to the Holyoke Musicians Union. She has been an active member in the organization for forty years. She was the first of her sex, too, to become an officer of the Union having served as vice-president of its four hundred membership for seven years, on its Board of Directors for five years, and the Board of Auditors for four years. She has held office in Quota Club, has served on the

Board of Directors of the Holyoke Community Concerts Association, and at one time was a member of the Board of Directors of the Young Women's Christian Association. Mrs. Ezold is a Charter Member of the Western Chapter, Massachusetts Music Teachers' Association, and was manager of Holyoke City Band for eight years. She is also an active member of the American Guild of Organists.

In assessing women's role in today's world, Mrs. Ezold emphasized repeatedly that woman's greatest opportunity lies right in the home.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ezold have two children - one son, Robert, a teacher of music in the Holyoke Public Schools, and one daughter, Mrs. Evelyn Chisley.

Her acclaim is well deserved.

Women, in addition to those cited, have been prominent as church organists during some part of the century just past. In tribute to their faithful service the following names are listed for posterity: Celena Menard, Rose Plouffe, and Yolande Menard - Immaculate Conception Church; Eugenie Lambert and Celena Menard - Perpetual Help Church; Blanche Bourque - Precious Blood Church; Mary Jane O'Connell, children's choir director and organist - St. Jerome Church; Mrs. Ronald Streeter and Mrs. Arthur Standen - First Church United; Mrs. Nancy Jones Daunheimer, Mrs. Eulah Taylor McCulloch and Mrs. Fred Bibbee - Grace Church; Mrs. Henry Cook and Miss Eunice Hillert - First Baptist; Mrs. Nancy Jones Daunheimer - Second Baptist; Mrs. Fanny Malcolm and Mrs. Raymond Chapin, the latter having served as organist for twenty years - Presbyterian Church; Miss

Esther Jackson - St. Andrew's Evangelical and Reformed; Miss Adelle Heinrich - Second Congregational; Mrs. Hortense McKenna, Sacred Heart Church.
are serving today.

It is worthy of note that in the very early days of Holyoke, the churches perpetuated culture through music. The organ was ever a significant piece of equipment in all places of worship, while the choir proved to be the vehicle through which the soul expressed itself in prayers of exaltation and thanksgiving.

Many Holyoke women have distinguished themselves in either the fine arts or arts and crafts; some have special talents in both. Neither space nor time permits inclusion of all; in paying tribute to few the many are being honored.

Evelyn J. Buckley, a talented portrait painter, was Holyoke born and educated. She undertook training in the Arts, particularly portrait painting, through the Famous Artists School. Her commitment to the Arts has occupied her free time the greater part of her life.

Art with Miss Buckley has always been an avocation which she has generously shared with others. She has shown her work in many of the local art exhibits and has had a one-man show in Kulturama. She has been known to have painted portraits of faces she considers interesting and different. When completed, it has been said she makes gifts of these to the respective individuals concerned.

Her regular business is what she chooses to call "a family affair". Her mother and three

daughters, Evelyn, Laura and Margaret started a confectionary business in 1915 at 2014 Northampton Street. This was terminated in 1940 in favor of a flower shop located in the same building until 1950. The Buckley Nursing Home founded by her brother and his wife (Irene Lawrence) was also a family affair. Miss Buckley says of herself, "I have been an artist, shopkeeper, an ice cream maker, a florist, a business owner, and a homemaker." Special training at Northampton Business College has prepared her well for her several business undertakings. Today, in addition to painting, she manages property at 2014-2022 Northampton Street of which she is sole owner.

Miss Buckley is a woman of tremendous ability. Deeply religious, she has an abiding faith in God's goodness and is a firm believer in His ever-ready help.

"My life goal", she told the writer, "is to be able to work, and enjoy the beauty around me." For years, Evelyn Buckley has been a member of the Holyoke League of Arts and Crafts, Inc. She has done more than create and enjoy beauty herself; she has given much joy to those who have been privileged to be on the receiving line of her talent.

One who would probably have achieved national and international prominence in the art field, had she lived, was Helen Ruth Schmidt whose life was cut short at the age of forty-five.

Miss Schmidt was born in Holyoke in 1911. A Holyoke High School graduate, she went on to study at Parsons School of Fine and Applied Arts which included a year at the school's Paris branch. Additional study of the Great Masters in Italy rounded out a fine professional training.

Upon graduation from Parsons, Miss Schmidt worked in commercial art in New York for approximately a year, following which she returned to Holyoke. Though she was mainly engaged in this city in commercial art and advertising as a business, she also did water colors of public buildings, churches and historic sites. These earned for her special acclaim as they captured not only the particular subjects but also something of the spirit behind the buildings themselves.

Among Miss Schmidt's outstanding efforts were water colors of the old Holyoke High School, Craft's Tavern, Holyoke Cross Church, Second Congregational Church, and the interior of Skinner Chapel. She was commissioned by the late Mayor Yoerg to do a water color of City Hall. This was a beautiful creation which graced the Mayor's office, Room One, for many years. There are those who will remember the hours Miss Schmidt spent across from City Hall poised with easel and brush as she tried to capture, and did, the color, tone, and structure of that building.

Helen Ruth Schmidt was a rare individual in that she had a deep feeling for beauty and gave expression to it through art, music and poetry. She wrote many poems and composed several pieces of music especially for the Christmas season. These made the front page of the Holyoke Transcript-Telegram during the years she submitted them for publication.

One of the fine activities planned this Centennial Year is a showing of Miss Schmidt's water colors at one of the local banks.

During her short lifetime, Miss Schmidt succeeded in bringing joy and beauty to the Holyoke Community.

The first woman to operate a Music store in Holyoke, Miss Kathleen Smith, began her business career in 1919 with Heidner and Son, Inc., then located on Maple Street, this city. Even though Miss Smith was merely in her teens and but a high school student at the time, the proprietors felt they had discovered in her an individual with a deep interest in Music and an unusual gift for salesmanship. Their faith in the young lady's ability proved positive as she not only remained with the Heidner Music Store for twenty years, but became its manager for at least three years before her departure to open a business of her own.

Mr. Raymond Heidner, in an interview with the writer, spoke highly of Miss Smith's business leadership. She was, he said in substance, a loyal, conscientious and competent saleswoman, and appreciated Music in all its forms.

About 1940 Miss Smith opened and operated her own Music Store across the street from Heidner's. She remained in business at that location for two decades. Illness resulted in the sale of her shop to Del Padre, Inc. Death came in 1960.

Miss Smith was a member of Catholic Lending Library, Holyoke Community Concerts, the Marian Center, and the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

It has been said of the lady that she never refused to help a worthy cause. Time and again tickets for cultural or charitable events were placed "on sale" at her store. Even today, some thirteen years after her passing, people in music circles speak of the help she extended in the promotion of Holyoke Community Concerts, Inc.

Marie Schurr Quirk (Mrs. William) is included in this Chapter for the work she has done to establish and develop a Youth Museum of Fine Arts in Holyoke. In this connection, as museologist and naturalist, her efforts have been tireless.

Through the generosity of the Skinner Family, the family home *Wistariahurst* was deeded about 1959 to the city for use as a Museum. Prior to this, what could be called the beginnings of a Museum had been housed in the uppermost floor of the Public Library. For years, Professor Burlingham Schurr presided as Curator, managing and overseeing the arts and artifacts displayed there. In a sense the Museum of his day accommodated natural history, fine arts, and arts and crafts under one roof. The present Museum, due to the efforts of the late Dr. Edward Bagg and Mrs. Quirk, is a more elaborate affair growing in sophistication almost daily. The main house itself has been restored as a Museum of Fine Arts; the Children's Museum is separate.

Some of the finest collections of antiques and period art in the world have been brought to Holyoke for study and display under Mrs. Quirk's directorship. The Music Room is used regularly for concerts, teas, and choral groups. The Children's Museum is popular with elementary children and junior youth who frequently enroll in special art classes, etc., conducted at various times either by paid professionals or by volunteers.

Mrs. Quirk received training for the position she presently holds from the late Professor Burlingham Schurr, noted naturalist of his day and one time curator of the Museum. Her own creative ability has been confirmed by the hundreds of



MRS. MARIE (Schurr) QUIRK

nature study stories penned by her and published in the Oracle of the Transcript-Telegram between 1944 and the present. Other articles of Mrs. Quirk's have appeared in the Massachusetts Audubon Magazine, National Antiques Review, the Quotarian and the Curator.

Marie Schurr Quirk is a lady whose activities have taken her into several different fields. In addition to serving as Director of the Museum since 1951, she has been the Granby correspondent to the Holyoke Transcript-Telegram since 1972, past president of Quota Club, Inc., and past secretary-treasurer of the Association of Youth Museum Directors 1964-66. In 1960 she organized the Women's Committee of the Friends of Holyoke Museum to raise funds to help establish a Youth Museum. She also holds positions of prominence on several Granby civic committees. Recently, Mrs. Quirk was elected Town Councilwoman in Granby which is her home.

Marie Schurr Quirk has been connected with Holyoke's Museum since 1941, first as an assistant, later 1946-50 as an assistant director, and finally 1951 as Director. Mrs. Quirk believes that women do have the capacity to attain any goal they desire if they work hard enough to achieve it.

"Women", she says, "know instinctively how to manage and operate on a shoestring." The fact that she has accomplished so much as Director of the Museum on so little money tends to confirm her statement.

Mary Preiss (Mrs. Walter E.), President since 1960 of the Women's Committee, Friends of Holyoke Museum, was born in Holyoke and resides here today. She was educated in this city's schools,



MRS. WALTER E. (Mary) PREISS

and is a 1930 graduate of Holyoke High School. She also attended the University of California at Berkeley for two and one-half years. Today, she is a member of the library staff of Mount Holyoke College where she has supervised the library of the Department of Biological Sciences for upwards of seven years.

Mrs. Preiss is included among women leaders "who made the difference" mainly for her contributions to the cultural growth of Holyoke through her service as President of the Museum's Women's Committee. Her efforts, in cooperation with members of the Women's Committee and Director Marie Schurr Quirk, resulted (1) in the establishment of a Youth Museum, and (2) in the dedication of a special room to honor Dr. Edward Bagg's twenty-six years of service to the Holyoke Public Library and Museum Corporation. Additionally, Mrs. Preiss initiated many fund raising activities to support the purchase or rental of several fine art collections. These were to supplement what was already available. Her service has been invaluable to the growth and development of Wistariahurst restored, now the Holyoke Museum.

April of this year. Mrs. Preiss was named President of the Holyoke Public Library and Museum, Incorporated, the first woman to serve in this position since the corporation's founding. In 1962, she was appointed director and member of its Executive Committee; in 1964 she was elected vice-president of the corporation.

During Mayor Dibble's terms of office, Mrs. Preiss served as a member of the Holyoke Redevelopment Authority. In seeking Aldermanic confirmation, Mayor Dibble said of Mrs. Preiss,

“Holyoke is fortunate to have women of Mrs. Preiss’ calibre, capable of serving the community and with a desire to better the environment for all its citizens.”

Mrs. Preiss holds membership in the New England Library Association and the American Library Association as well. She is a communicant of Sacred Heart Church and a member of Holy Cross Chapter of the National Council of Catholic Women.

Mr. and Mrs. Preiss have one son, Richard, who is currently a candidate for a Ph.D. degree at Syracuse University.

Addendum: In 1973, through the efforts of Mrs. Preiss, Holyoke Museum at Wistariahurst was acclaimed “An Historic Site”.

Back in the thirties, and for many years thereafter, Mabel Dashiell, “grande dame” of the legitimate theater, played character roles, first in the old Opera House on Dwight Street, and later at Mountain Park. Her husband, Willard Dashiell, was also a well-known character actor who, in his day, was a popular star here and elsewhere. Both played on Broadway before coming to Holyoke; also, they toured in summer stock between seasons.

Mrs. Dashiell was a tall, fair, strong-featured woman with aristocratic carriage and flashing eyes. Her diction and stage presence were faultless. She was a woman demanding of herself and exacting in her dealings with others. She had a host of friends in the Holyoke community.

The Dashiells had a great love for Holyoke. They purchased a home in Smith’s Ferry to which,

until their retirement, they would always return between engagements. Upon retirement, it became their permanent residence. In their day, Mabel and Willard Dashiell brought much joy and laughter to countless theater lovers in the Holyoke area.

The writer recalls with a chuckle her first encounter with Mabel Dashiell. In her youth, when the writer knew no better, she had the audacity to call upon Mrs. Dashiell at her Smith's Ferry home. In awkward and stumbling fashion, she asked Mrs. Dashiell whether she would be willing to star in a character role in the pilot run of a first play.

"Do you have the play?" she asked. To the writer, at that moment, Mrs. Dashiell looked fifteen feet tall.

"Yes", she said, handing it to her. Mrs. Dashiell thumbed briefly through the manuscript. Suddenly she rose, handed it to the writer, and said,

"My dear young woman, I don't know whose play this is, but it just isn't worth producing."

"Thank you", the writer said, reddening, and left hurriedly.

One guess as to the author of the play!?!

In the not too distant past, the Guilds, Jean and Carleton, who live in Holyoke today, were tremendous favorites among Holyokers who patronized legitimate theater. They were associated with the Mountain Park Players, a veteran group whose superb casts drew large audiences.

Holyokers are a unique people so far as the legitimate theater is concerned. They seem to patronize it only periodically. There are great sur-

ges when they will back it to the hilt; then, there are periods when they show little or no interest. When theater was at its height in this community some of the best professionals in the land performed here.

CHAPTER V

WOMEN IN MEDICINE AND THE HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS

"I will use treatment to help the sick according to my ability and judgment, but never with a view to injury and wrongdoing. Neither will I administer poison to anybody when asked to do so, nor will I suggest such a course . . . But I will keep pure and holy in my life and my art . . . Into whatsoever houses I enter, I will enter to help the sick, and I will abstain from all intentional wrongdoing and harm . . . And whatsoever I shall see or hear in the course of my profession, as well as outside my profession . . . if it be what should not be published abroad, I will never divulge, holding such things to be holy secrets."

FROM THE OATH OF HIPPOCRATES

The progress of medicine and its related arts and sciences in this community these one hundred years past is most inspiring. It is a story in which women have played a distinctive role. It is, viewing it in retrospect, a tribute to the deeply spiritual that consciously or unconsciously motivates humanity's loftiest endeavors. Holyoke's progress in the prevention and cure of disease bears witness - to borrow a phrase from Victor Hugo - "to the onward stride of God".

Consider the advances Holyoke alone has experienced in just one century. Prior to 1873 Holyoke had no hospitals, trained nurses, medical specialists, or nursing homes, and but limited pharmaceutical service. Between then and now the city has witnessed not only the rise of well-equipped hospitals and nursing homes but also the development of sound training programs in the health care professions as well as specialization in the diversified branches of medicine itself. Where a century

ago the general practitioner treated all types of illness, today available in Holyoke alone are the services of specialists in internal medicine, cardiology, obstetrics and gynecology, psychiatry, urology, orthopedics, pediatrics, endocrinology, vascular surgery, hematology, gastroenterology, and anesthesiology. Undoubtedly there are more than those listed. Even as this pen moves across the page new specialists may have joined the Holyoke community so swift is the pace of change in the nuclear age in which we live.

To state simply that the general and special branches of medicine have advanced spectacularly between 1873 and the moving present would be an understatement at best. The last fifty year period alone has heralded a universal explosion in science and medical knowledge unparalleled in the history of man. Holyoke, as peoples in civilized countries throughout the world, has reaped the benefits of that explosion. Today, human life has become the benefactor of scientific discoveries beyond the realm of imagination but a short century ago.

Through the unfolding years, Holyoke women have made a substantial contribution to the treatment and care of the ill and maimed. Records show that those called to serve in the medical and health care professions have worked assiduously and efficiently alongside male counterparts.

One of the first women who devoted a large share of her genius to the health care needs of Holyoke was Sister Mary Providence, later to become Mother Mary Providence, S.P.

It will be remembered that in 1873, in answer to a call from Father John Harkins, an Order of



MOTHER MARY PROVIDENCE, S.P.

Nuns, the Sisters of Charity of Providence, came to Holyoke to found and staff an institution where working girls might have a home and receive health care. The institution, first of its kind in Western Massachusetts, was established as an orphanage and hospital in November of 1873.

The Sisters opened the "House" in South Hadley until suitable property could be found to move its services to Holyoke. In 1874 Father Harkins purchased the Parsons property on the corner of Dwight and Elm Streets and that same year the Sisters vacated the South Hadley premises to occupy the House of Providence in Holyoke. It was not until July of 1894 that a new House of Providence Hospital opened at the Dwight Street location. That building was demolished when the present Providence Hospital was erected in 1958.

Sister Mary Providence, whose life was linked with that of Providence Hospital for so many years, arrived in Holyoke in 1875 and was set to work immediately to teach a primary class of one hundred twenty-five pupils at St. Jerome Institute for Boys. But it was not in teaching that Sister was to rise to her greatest potential. It was in health care and hospital administration.

Minnie R. Dwight, in commenting upon Sister's contribution to Holyoke in her booklet on *Women Leaders of Holyoke*,⁽¹⁾ said of this unusual woman:

"For the development of Providence Hospital and indeed for service in many fields in Holyoke, an undying story is the lifework of Sister Mary of Providence who became Rev. Mother Mary of Providence and Mother General of the Order of Sisters of Providence in this country . . . Rev. Mother . . . went about the city inviting contributions for her work from mill owners, their wives, business men, and everybody . . . a charming

(1) Dwight, M. R. *Women Leaders of Holyoke*, 1949 (Unpublished)

person, gay, bright, with an extraordinary way of saying just the thing her subject for a gift would like to have said."

Mother Mary of Providence was the founder and first Superintendent of Providence Hospital Training School for Nurses. She served in the latter capacity from 1900 to 1926.

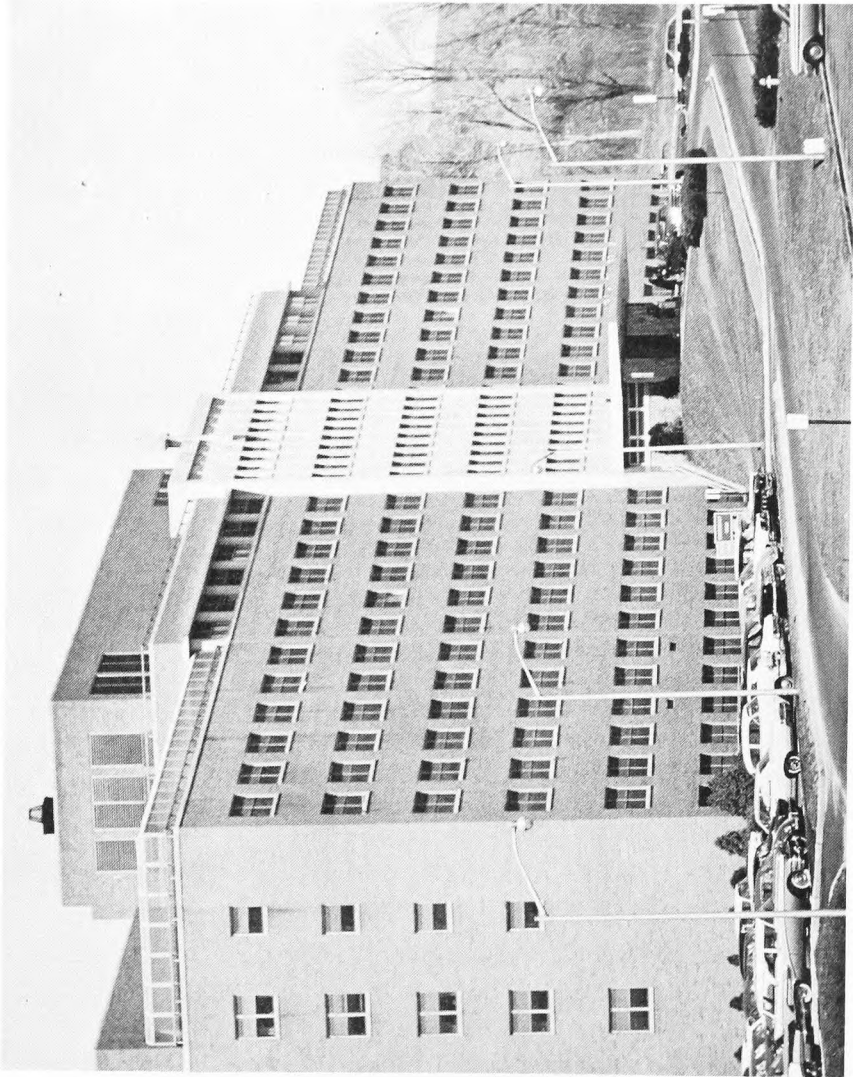
Mother was noted for her willingness to accept change. As an astute administrator, she saw the value of experimentation with the new and the untried. As a human being she was understanding, sympathetic, cheerful, and charitable.

Several stories are recalled by the Sisters and Nurses who worked with her. She was wont to say to a Sister who looked tired, "Run up on the roof for a while, you will do your work better."

Another anecdote tells something of the deep concern she had for people - the real motivating force in her life. It is said that if she happened to be served some delicacy for dinner, she made it a practice to look around the room before touching it to see if, perchance, some Sister were but nibbling at her own meal. Mother would immediately send the Sister the better part of the delicacy served her.

The story of the life of Mother of Providence is filled with anecdotes of her kindness to people. Said one of her acquaintances, "Mother always had time for people, young and old, rich or poor, ill or well. Her door was always open to people with problems."

Mother's empathy for others was well known throughout the Holyoke community. Mail carriers of her time expressed a warm feeling for Mother Mary. It is said that of a cold winter's day, there



PROVIDENCE HOSPITAL, HOLYOKE, MASS.

was always hot coffee left for the postmen at Mother's request.

It has also been recalled of her by one of the Sisters that she never passed a nurse or a worker, no matter how seemingly insignificant, without a bright smile and a few kindly words.

Mother Mary of Providence will be ever remembered as a warm human being, outstanding hospital administrator, founder of Providence School of Nursing, and an exceptionally distinguished leader. Her success in hospital service was phenomenal.

Mrs. Minnie R. Dwight, in a special 1949 issue of Holyoke's Transcript Telegram, in recalling Mother Mary of Providence remarked, "Perhaps no one woman who lived in Holyoke could be said to have changed the life of Holyoke in the degree of Mother Mary of Providence - and what a beautiful time she had spreading her blessings."

The Rev. J. J. McCoy, in his *History of the Diocese of Springfield*⁽²⁾ described Mother Mary as a slight, delicate, unassuming woman, feminine, gentle and gifted.⁽³⁾ Father, too, spoke of Mother as having possessed a keen sense of business acumen - a woman who could negotiate "with builders, bankers, lawyers and priests" on equal terms and without loss of femininity or dignity.⁽⁴⁾

Father McCoy, in speaking of Mother's devotion and unselfishness, agreed with other historians⁽⁵⁾

(2) McCoy, Rev. J. J., *History of the Diocese of Springfield*
Boston: The Hurd and Everts Co., 1900 P. 28

(3) Ibid. P. 28

(4) Ibid. P. 28

(5) Ibid. P. 28

“She has had hundreds of thousands of dollars in her hands, and she is ceaseless in seeking the consolation of her Sisters and of the people for whom they care; but never a penny was spent on herself, or a moment’s thought given to her personal comfort. God has abundantly blessed her work; it has prospered and grown miraculously.”

Holyoke enjoys today the fruits of this rare woman’s initial labors. Proudly gracing 1233 Main Street is the beautiful, modern, well-equipped Providence Hospital, second to none in the greater Holyoke area.

In the intervening years, Providence Hospital has been blessed with able and gifted administrators - a list too lengthy to mention here. They have provided the Holyoke community with well-trained and highly skilled nurses capable of competing with the best.

A Sister to follow in the future is the Reverend Mother Mary Caritas, S.P., R.N., A.B. Regis College, and M.Ed. Tufts University. Mother is young, individualistic, energetic, and perpetually in motion. She came to Providence as an administrative dietitian when the new hospital opened. Since 1959, however, she has become involved with diocesan construction projects. The new Mount St. Vincent stands as tribute to her participation in its planning.

In speaking of herself, Mother said simply, “I became a religious to serve God and my neighbor. My goal is ever to deepen this relationship and all other things are bound to fall into place.”⁽⁶⁾

During the interview with Mother Mary Caritas, she talked freely, sincerely, and fearlessly.

(6) Personal interview with Mother December 28, 1972

If she had something on her mind, she quickly disposed of it. About women in today's world, Mother explained quite frankly, "Women are people in their own right. The women I know and admire are sure of themselves and are respected because of their uniqueness - womanhood."

Mother went on, stating firmly, "I have no difficulty relating to or making my point with men. Those women who spend their time looking for special places and special recognition are to be



THE REV. MOTHER MARY CARITAS, S.P., R.N.

pitied. There is so much going on that they miss.”

Still another quotable quote of Mother’s was this rather unique gem, “I feel women, if they know and respect themselves, are as God created them - complimentary to men.”

In the brief interview with her, Mother Caritas unconsciously exhibited qualities necessary to leadership - courage, honesty, forthrightness, and ability to relate to people and the world about her.

In discussing this point in time, she opined, “The good and the beautiful go unnoticed and unsung. . . . There is too much violence, immorality, degradation. Our values are out of order. I believe there must be repudiation and suffering before things become right.”

Mother had great praise for the Sisters of Providence who, for one hundred years, have played a vital role in Holyoke’s history. Her faith and optimism shone through with this closing remark, “I do not reflect on the city’s ills because I believe more is to be gained through confidence in the future.”

One biting cold winter’s day early in 1973, a cheerful looking nun appeared in the writer’s office carrying a huge box which she explained was crammed with resource material on the Sisters of Providence in western Massachusetts, and on Rev. Mother Mary of Providence, in particular. “Rev. Mother Mary Caritas thought it might be helpful,” she said. How Sister ever carried that box from a car even to the door of 98 Suffolk Street, much less climb the steep stairway to the School Department offices without stretching a ligament or two, is next to miraculous. She gave the impression, however, that it was nothing, nothing at all.

Sister informed the writer that her name was Sister Mary Fatima, S.P., R.N., and that she was a native of Holyoke. She smiled frequently as she spoke and gave the immediate impression of being a blithe and happy person - friendly, relaxed, and ebullient.

Invited to beseat herself, this she did gratefully. It was not long before an animated conversation was underway.

Sister was, she said, by way of introduction, currently missioned at Providence Hospital, and along with caring for the sick and aging, was finding time to complete requirements for a Master of Science in Public Health Administration which she had expectations of finishing by May of 1973.

Upon probing further, the young woman had had the benefit of a fine professional training: was graduated from Mercy Hospital School of Nursing, Springfield, 1947; earned a B.S. in Nursing at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, 1970; and was currently working on an M.S. degree at that institution. As the conversation progressed, the writer discovered that Sister was graduated from the University of Massachusetts with honors in 1970 and that she was elected at that time to membership in Sigma Theta Tau, Nursing Honor Society of the University.

Sister Mary Fatima expressed, during the interview, a deep interest in the aged and felt more could be done in geriatric care when more experimentation was conducted in that field. It was her fondest hope, she said, to make some significant contribution to that field at some future point in time.

As it developed, the Sister had already made several contributions to her profession. When stationed at Mercy Hospital in 1955, she initiated and directed the Surgical Technician Program there; additionally, she acted in similar capacity at St. Luke's Unit, Berkshire Medical Center in 1959.

Next, the talk turned to Holyoke. Sister, as most people who were born here, was of the opinion that the warmth and friendliness of the people of Holyoke would always be among the city's most outstanding characteristics.

As for women in the world of work, Sister had something to say on that subject too. "Today women are attuned to the problems facing the world. More than ever before they are being challenged to defend their rights, hold responsible positions, and make significant contributions in almost every walk of life."

It was a refreshing and rewarding experience to have had the opportunity to speak with Rev. Mother Mary Caritas and Sister Mary Fatima. Their contributions to this community and those of the Sisters of Providence from Mother Mary of Providence down to the present have been truly great.

How the Holyoke City Hospital came to be is as moving and stirring a story as that of Providence. It was said of this early venture that at the time of the hospital's erection, it represented the city's "farthest reaching single philanthropy".⁽⁷⁾

Holyoke Hospital was the dream child of William Whiting, who formed a corporation to build

[7] Holyoke Daily Transcript, Special 30th Anniversary Edition, 1912. Section on Holyoke's Philanthropies.

a public hospital in 1891. Leading families of Holyoke responded magnificently to the call for funds. Contributions per individual ran as high as \$5,000; many contributions of \$2,500 helped the dream become a reality. The response was, as one person told the writer, "absolutely breath-taking". Two years later, June 10, 1893, Holyoke City Hospital was dedicated.

While the hospital was in process of construction, the Holyoke Hospital Aid Association was formed. The group, comprised of the wives and daughters of donors, has made since its inception, a most remarkable contribution not alone to the hospital itself but to the Holyoke community as well. Women in the early days of the Association's founding, organized drives and ran lawn parties to provide funds to furnish the hospital and to care for patients unable to afford necessary health care.

The Hospital Aid Association, active from the facility's pre-erection days, had as its first president Mrs. E. C. Taft. She was succeeded by Mrs. William Whiting who for upwards of twenty years in that capacity raised tremendous sums of money for the hospital. Mrs. Joseph Metcalf and Mrs. Frank Heywood served as long-time treasurer and secretary, respectively, of that splendid volunteer brigade.

The first big garden party on behalf of the hospital was organized by Mrs. William Whiting and held on the lawn of her home in 1907. The affair was a huge social and philanthropic undertaking. It is said to have netted \$9,000, approximately. Another garden party was held on the grounds of the Whiting home in 1909 at which time the Association, through Mrs. Whiting, raised \$15,000 for the Hospital.



A COMPLETE VIEW OF HOLYOKE HOSPITAL

Though the Hospital Aid Association was not in itself a health care unit, it did work for the betterment of health care service and for that reason is included in this chapter. Other women who held membership in the Association those early years will be recognized as belonging to some of Holyoke's most distinguished family units: Mrs. H. B. Lawrence, Mrs. Joseph Metcalf, Mrs. F. B. Towne, Mrs. F. S. Webber, Mrs. T. Fowler, Mrs. S. R. Whiting, Mrs. J. E. Clark, Mrs. H. M. Farr, Mrs. J. Cowan, Mrs. F. E. Miner, Mrs. E. A. Reed, Mrs. J. C. MacIntosh, Mrs. C. W. Ranlet, Mrs. C. H. Heywood, Mrs. C. C. Jenks, and Mrs. J. L. Wyckoff.

A training school for nurses was established with the opening of the facility. Its guiding star and Superintendent was Miss Edith Tower who later became Mrs. A. H. Foster. Miss Tower was not its first Superintendent as she succeeded one Miss Hall whose stay was brief. In fact, the latter remained as directress a few short months. In the five years Miss Tower supervised the school of nursing, she is said to have accomplished what would appear to others to have been the impossible. She organized the curriculum in terms of the best common practice of the time, established standards of ethical and professional conduct for the nurses, and supervised diligently the practicum of each trainee.

Other women who contributed to the early growth of the school of nursing were the Misses M. L. Daniels, Lillian O. West and Laura Pratt. But these were the professionals. It was really the volunteers who kept interest in support of the hospital spirited and active.

Once the two major hospitals were built, women doctors served with honor and distinction at various periods throughout the century.

For an inner city the size of Holyoke there have not been that many women physicians, but those the people and hospitals were privileged to have available to them proved exceptionally able. Worthy of incidental note is the fact that some were wives of doctors, others sisters of doctors, two, daughters of doctors; still others, the first of a family to be connected with medicine.

Julia M. Patten, M.D., was one of the first woman doctors in Holyoke to exert her energies beyond medicine. Dr. Patten is said to have been a woman of electrifying personality and widespread interests. Her involvement in community service extended to promotion of an organization that later became the Young Women's Christian Association. She was a member of a group of socially prominent individuals who, in the 1880's, set out to help young women immigrants who came to Holyoke to work in the mills. Dr. Patten was engaged in a number of social service ventures during her lifetime in Holyoke. It is said of her that, in a period when women in any field not alone medicine failed of acceptance, she was readily respected particularly by the young immigrant women pre 1900.

Another physician worthy of note was Dr. Ella Davis. Ella Davis, M.D. served on the staffs of Providence and Holyoke hospitals, respectively, before and after the turn of the century. She is claimed to have been a quick-witted woman extremely concerned with the health problems of a growing city. Mrs. Minnie R. Dwight,⁽⁸⁾ who knew every woman of distinction not alone in Holyoke

(8) Dwight, M. R. Women Leaders in Holyoke
Holyoke Transcript-Telegram 1949 p.17

but throughout Hampden County, characterized Dr. Ella Davis as one of sparkling manner and devoted to her profession. Prior to the passing of Dr. Davis in the thirties, her excellence as an outstanding physician was recognized by her peers, male and female.

Dr. Margaret Ross McCarthy, sister to Dr. George Ross, is claimed to have been the first female "city physician" in the United States. Dr. Ross was a native of Holyoke, a graduate of Holyoke High School and Tufts Medical School. She held memberships in the Hampden County Medical Society, Massachusetts Medical Society and the American Medical Association. It has been said of her that she was quiet and unassuming in manner, but aggressive when aggression was needed. One who knew her well emphasized her pleasing personality and her ability to establish rapport with patients. Doctor also maintained a private practice at a Maple Street address. Death came to Dr. McCarthy in 1959.

Dr. Mary Leavitz, it may be recalled, was sister-in-law to Dr. Stanley Cox and aunt to Dr. Gardner Cox and Dr. Phoebe Cox. According to available records she practiced but briefly in Holyoke. Doctor did, however, practice in Boston for many years where she gained the distinction of becoming first chief of anesthesiology in Boston, and probably in Massachusetts.

Dr. Julia Lewandowska Bauman could be called one of Holyoke's first obstetricians. She is claimed to have brought more babies into the world than any other physician of her time. The story of Dr. Julia Lewandowska Bauman is that of the American dream come true.

Dr. Bauman was born in Posen, German Poland in 1882, child number six in a family of eight children. She came to America with her parents spring of the following year. The family eventually settled in Chicopee where she received her early education.

Only by dint of hard work and incessant effort did she accumulate sufficient funds to defray the cost of a college education. She attended evening classes, tutored on the side, and worked at various and sundry jobs to prepare herself scholastically and financially for the task ahead. In 1907 she matriculated at Baltimore Women's Medical College where she studied for three years. She next transferred to Pennsylvania Women's College at Philadelphia where in 1911 she was the recipient of an M.D. degree. That same year Doctor opened offices at 97 High Street where she began a general practice.

The address 97 High Street will be recognized as having been the heart of the Polish sector at the time. Here she served thousands of families through her fine years of service. It was in this district where she initially catapulted to fame, a fame that was to endure throughout her lifetime and after her death.

As early as 1916, only five years following the opening of her practice, a biographical sketch of Doctor Bauman appeared in the Biographical and Genealogical Encyclopedia of Massachusetts published that year by the American Historical Society, part of which is cited verbatim herewith:

“Dr. Bauman has used her influence among the people of her race for better sanitary conditions, and to secure better housing facilities. Her efforts have been attended with success along these lines,

and she everywhere advocates these conditions to aid in the prevention of disease.

“In her day, Dr. Bauman enjoyed the distinction of having been the only woman of Polish extraction east of Chicago engaged in the practice of medicine.”⁽⁹⁾

A successful husband-wife team was that of Dr. Frank Celce and his wife Dr. Jean Henrietta Hose Celce. He was born in the Rhine Province of Germany, she in Johnston, N. Y. Both parents of Dr. Jean Celce were doctors.

Dr. Jean had an exceptionally fine training here and abroad. In 1892 after having been graduated from the Women’s Medical College of Philadelphia, Doctor interned at Pennsylvania Lying-in Hospital where she also became resident physician. Following her internship, Doctor studied at the Universities of Vienna and Heidelberg to supplement her training. Few women physicians of her time enjoyed the luxury of study abroad.

The team of Dr. Frank Frederick Celce and Dr. Jean Henrietta Hose Celce came to Holyoke to practice medicine in 1895. Both served on the medical and surgical staffs of Holyoke Hospital. Records indicate that the pair had been ranked in their day among the leading physicians of Western Massachusetts. The couple had two children: Rosamond E. and Frederick William; the latter, like his father, also became a physician and surgeon.

Dr. Jean Celce died in the thirties. Her name is still a favorite among many of our older citizens.

Honorina K. Shrine, M.D., was born in Holyoke and spent her life practicing general medicine in

(9) Cutter, W. R. et al. *Encyclopedia of Massachusetts*
Boston: American Historical Society 1916, pp 86-87

the City of her birth. Until the early sixties, Doctor was identified with numerous community activities and along with other outstanding women in her profession earned for herself a high place in the longlist of Holyoke's distinguished women leaders.

Doctor was a devoted alumna of Trinity College, Washington, D.C., from which she received her undergraduate degree. It is noteworthy, too, that she was the first graduate of that institution to receive a medical degree. In 1959 Trinity saw fit to award Doctor an honorary Doctor of Science degree, a supreme honor, as only eight other individuals had received honorary degrees from Trinity since its founding.

Doctor's graduate degree in medicine was earned at Medical College of Pennsylvania in 1913. Following an internship at the New York Infirmary for Women and Children, she engaged in post-doctoral studies in pediatrics and public health at Harvard and Columbia Universities. The remainder of her life was spent practicing general medicine in Holyoke. Death came in 1967 following a glorious career in the medical profession.

Dr. Honoria K. Shine was identified during her lifetime with a number of institutions on whose staffs or boards she served with credit to herself and her profession: the Pediatrics staff of Providence Hospital, the Medical staff of Holyoke Hospital, and School Physician with the Holyoke Public Schools. The Holyoke Tuberculosis and Health Association, Child Welfare Commission, Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, Guild of St. Agnes, all benefited immeasurably from her extraordinary leadership.

Doctor was a tall, well-poised and impressive-looking woman always stylishly and meticulously groomed. The contribution of Honoria K. Shine, M.D. to the Holyoke community was limitless and will long be remembered.

Another native of Holyoke who chose medicine as a career was Dr. Grace E. Tiffany who, strangely enough, was first a registered nurse before deciding to become a physician. According to Mrs. Mary Mitchell, secretary to Harold B. Pine, (who provided much of the material on our women doctors), Grace E. Tiffany enrolled in the University of Massachusetts after completion of her R.N. training, and later matriculated at Tufts Medical School in Boston from which she earned the degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1937. Dr. Tiffany never returned to Holyoke but chose to practice in Framingham, Massachusetts where she lives today.

Still another doctor born and raised in Holyoke and one of today's physicians is Dr. Phoebe L. Cox. Hers is an impressive background. Phoebe L. Cox, M.D. is niece, daughter, and sister respectively to three of Holyoke's outstanding physicians.

Doctor's education and training have prepared her well for the career chosen as a life work - that of general practitioner. Institutions responsible for her educational and professional backgrounds include: Mary Lyon School, Mount Holyoke College, University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, McGill University and Christian Medical College in Ludhiland, India. Doctor is engaged in private practice and is on the staff of Holyoke Hospital.

Doctor Phoebe L. Cox has many years yet to serve in her chosen life work. With her keen interest in people and her excellent background she will scale new heights in the medical field.

Memories of Doctor Pauline Hanyzewski Frankowski, M.D. go back to the writer's first years as a teacher at Morgan Junior High School. At the time, Doctor Frankowski was connected with Belchertown State School and came frequently to Morgan to inquire about certain children in attendance at Belchertown. The writer found her to be a thoroughly dedicated woman - quiet, unassuming, conscientious and able. She worked well with teachers and was never overbearing or excessive in demands. Her interest was in the children who were or would be prospective patients at Belchertown. A large share of her life was spent working with mentally retarded children.

Doctor Frankowski, though not a native of Holyoke, devoted most of her life to the greater Holyoke community following her marriage to Attorney Joseph A. Frankowski in 1927. A graduate of Tufts Medical School, she practiced in Easthampton one year and in Holyoke for a few years before joining the staffs of Northampton State Hospital and Belchertown State School. She served in the latter capacity for upwards of fifteen years where she became not only director of the traveling school clinic, but also, eventually a senior physician.

Holyoke was the city in which Doctor chose to live. Here she was active on the Board of Health in 1942. For a number of years, too, she was president of the Polish Women's Citizens Club.

Doctor Pauline Frankowski retired from active practice in 1963. Of two sons one, Paul, lives in New York; Joseph lives in Holyoke.

The writer first met Dr. Marie H. Daniels through her husband, the late Dr. Edward P. Bagg,

the second. Both, now deceased, were prominent figures in this city for several decades. They loved Holyoke and served it well down through the years. Doctor Marie Daniels' history was, in a sense, akin to that of Dr. Julia Bauman's as both were immigrants from European countries.

Marie H. Daniels, M.D. was born in Wilno, Russia in 1902. It was there she received her early education which was culminated in a medical degree from the University of Wilno in 1928. She was the first woman intern in Holyoke Hospital. Though her knowledge of English was exceedingly limited in the beginning, it was amazing how literate she became in the language after a few short years in this country.

Doctor entered private practice in Holyoke in 1932 and, like Dr. Bauman, delivered many Holyoke babies from that date to the time of her death in 1966. She served on the medical staffs of



M. GENE BLACK, M.D.

Holyoke and Providence Hospitals, and held memberships in all the important medical groups - American Medical Association, New England Pediatric Society, the Hampden District Medical Society, and the Springfield Academy of Medicine.

The writer recalls Doctor Marie Daniels as a woman of great *savoir faire*, a most unusual personality. Not only was she gifted in medicine; she sparkled with a *joie de vivre* that was catching when other people were in her presence. It was said of her that though she moved in high circles, she never lost the common touch.

Dr. Daniel's two children did not remain in Holyoke. A son, Aaron lives in New York; daughter Ruth is married and travels widely with her husband, service-connected Joseph Metcalf, III.

Living and serving Holyoke today are five women in medicine, one of whom has been included elsewhere in this chapter, Dr. Phoebe L. Cox. Of the remaining four Doctors, M. Gene Black, Lulu Warner, Ann M. Hirschorn and Myra L. Baker Shayevitz, only the last was born in Holyoke. All, nonetheless, contribute unsparingly of time and talent to the Holyoke community.

Dr. M. Gene Black, a native of Michigan, came to Holyoke in 1947. Her medical training was solid and varied. Following matriculation at Kalamazoo College, an M.D. degree was earned at Boston University. Internship at Memorial Hospital in Worcester and Bellevue in New York City provided excellent pre-practice training. Once interne experience was completed, Doctor spent two years as resident in chest specialization in Worcester City Hospital and another two years as

resident in anesthesiology at University Hospital in Boston. The next five years were spent as chest specialist in Boston and as consultant to the State Department of Mental Disease.

From 1947 to the present Dr. Black has been connected with Holyoke Hospital, first as a specialist in the Department of Anesthesia, which she initiated, and from 1969 to the present with Respiratory Therapy.

Doctor today holds the distinction of being a Diplomat of the American Board of Anesthesiology and also of the American College of Anesthesiology. She was co-founder, with Dr. Martin of Worcester, of the Western Massachusetts Association of Anesthesiology and is Chairman of that organization.

Doctor spoke freely during the interview conducted with her. In the opinion of the writer, the subject appeared to be a deeply spiritual woman. With respect to life and life goals, Doctor had this to offer: "I am astonished at the miracle of the human body and the fabulous job God did in creating it. My greatest joy comes of helping people and seeing them get well."

"There is," she continued, "nothing else I would rather do than work with people."

When queried about women in today's world, she answered, "They should have the exact same opportunities as men - no favoritism either way."

About where our country is headed, she remarked, with a mixture of sadness and optimism, "No one can help but be concerned with what America is today." She went on, after a pause, "Fundamentally, nevertheless, I have great faith in young people."

Doctor felt Holyoke should develop the canals as sources of beauty. Though a resident of South Hadley, she has served on Holyoke's Beautification Committee for several years. Not only has she been recipient of the Dwight Award, but also of a special Award by the Parks and Recreation Department. She has had the honor, too, of a tree planted in her name on Holyoke Hospital grounds by the hospital's student nurses. Currently, Doctor is Commissioner of Conservation in South Hadley.

The writer closed the interview with the thought that here is a special handiwork of the Creator whose passing among us makes Holyoke a better place in which to live.

Dr. Lulu H. Warner is a colleague in medicine of Dr. M. Gene Black. Dr. Warner was born in Amherst and came to Holyoke in 1936. Her specialty is also anesthesiology. The University of Massachusetts and Tufts Medical College provided her with the basic training for the practice of medicine. Following graduation she undertook special training in Anesthesia at Hartford Hospital.

Doctor, too, conveyed the impression of living the Christian spirit. Her basic philosophy of life was expressed in this way, "I try to love God and neighbor." In speaking of her career, she said, "I have a responsibility for the life of each patient to whom I administer an anesthetic. That is my challenge."

On women in today's world, this was the reply: "Equal talents should receive equal recognition and rewards."

Doctor also remarked, however, that she personally never encountered any discrimination because of her sex.

Myra L. Baker Shayevitz, M.D. is a specialist in internal medicine and chest disease. Doctor is a native of Holyoke and daughter and wife of a physician. As physician, wife, and mother hers is a full and happy life.

Doctor Myra Baker Shayevitz is a pure product of Holyoke's Public Schools having attended H. B. Lawrence, Highland, and Holyoke High School respectively. She has a deep love for the city and is quick to say proudly that Holyoke is and always has been the center of her life.

Along with so many women interviewed, she too was of the opinion that nowhere could there be found a more wholesome or friendly atmosphere than in the city of her birth. It was, she said, the reason for returning to Holyoke. She wanted her children to grow up here.

Doctor Shayevitz is best described as the modern woman at best - frank, open, able, and well-informed. She is deeply involved in her work, one who tries to keep abreast of the ever-changing discoveries in her field. Another asset is her respect for the patients who come to her, regardless of their race, color, or creed.

Her philosophy of life, she explained, is an ancient one. At the end of each day she hopes to be able to say with conscience, "I have not wasted this day."

Her personal goal in life encompasses two facets, mutually interrelated: (1) to achieve for family, self, and patients, health, happiness, and a measure of peace, and (2) to advance the quality of medical care in Holyoke. With Doctor's background and energy, there is every possibility

that her goals will be achieved. She holds a baccalaureate degree from Barnard College, 1956, and a medical degree from New York University, College of Medicine, 1959.

Doctor Shayevitz is claimed to be the first Holyoke-born woman qualified in internal medicine by the American Board of Internal Medicine. She is a fellow of the American College of Chest Physicians and holds membership in the American College of Physicians. She is listed in Who's Who of American Women and in Two Thousand Women of Achievement. Currently, she serves at Holyoke Hospital on that Hospital's Pulmonary Function Laboratory.

This year, when Holyoke is celebrating its Centennial, a statement by Dr. Myra Baker Shayevitz is worthy of serious reflection: "Holyoke is surrounded by natural beauty and unparalleled opportunities for education within the city and around it - a great school system, sophisticated medical facilities, and hospitals and physicians increasing in their sophistication and scope all the time. To me, Holyokers seem filled with the spirit that this is their town, and are determined to see the city grow in prosperity and advantages. I am proud of this spirit."

A newcomer to Holyoke, Dr. Ann M. Hirschorn is a certified neurologist. She came to this community from Northampton in 1967. Doctor, a graduate of Harvard Medical School, is today a member of a medical and surgical team that serves the greater Holyoke area.

Dr. Hirschorn is a pleasant lady who has the respect and admiration of her peers. Although but a few years in Holyoke, she has contributed

significantly to the health care needs of this city and the community wishes her well.

With several of our Holyoke women, especially Mrs. William (Maria) Dwight, Jr., accomplishing so much in geriatrics today, it is fitting that some mention be made of the Holyoke Home for Aged People founded in 1911 and located on Morgan Street on a tract of land donated by Mr. William S. Loomis in memory of his wife.

The Society was, in the beginning, comprised of five ladies interested in the study of wild flowers which were at the time widely prevalent in the hilly and wooded sections of the young city. The original venture was called the Outing Club. Its members included: Mrs. W. Thwing, Mrs. W. Chase, Mrs. P. Moore, Mrs. E. Draper and Mrs. J. Ordway. In 1898, not too long after the Outing Club was organized, one Mrs. Charles Blodgett interested the Club in a new purpose - to do good for the needy. The name was then changed to the Rain or Shine Club. The women began, immediately upon reorganization, to raise money for charity through card parties, fairs and suppers. By 1902 the group was incorporated and the name was once again changed to the Holyoke Home for Aged People's Society.

Mrs. C. E. Ball had the distinction of reigning as its first and only president, Mrs. J. Ramage its new treasurer, and Mrs. F. E. Miner its secretary. Through the efforts of these women and their membership of sixty a building fund drive was launched which at first failed to meet with staggering success. The women, undaunted, continued with their drive until one large grant of \$10,000 came their way through the generosity of Joseph

Metcalf. That amount, along with numerous smaller donations finally brought the total to \$32,000. It was with these funds that the Holyoke Home for Aged People was built.

The Home, open to men and women, offered health care, recreation and physical therapy. Reading, gardening and music were but a few of the activities available to the elderly in residence at the Home.

Several names of prominent Holyoke families appeared on the Society's official board following its founding. Among these were: Mrs. E. G. Whiting, Mrs. F. E. Miner, Mrs. J. Merrick, Mrs. J. Ramage, Mrs. J. White, Mrs. D. B. Kelton, Mrs. G. Cox, Mrs. W. S. Loomis and Mrs. A. J. Osborne.

Holyoke from earliest days as a city recognized the need for adequate health care institutions to insure the prevention, treatment, and cure of disease. To this cause both men and women devoted their energies, but it is significant that though women then did not enjoy the privileges available to them now, they were, despite this fact, the shining stars in the evolving city's many changing scenes. The story of the first Municipal Milk Station is a case in point.

Individuals connected with the founding of the Holyoke Municipal Milk Station were women. The high rate of infant mortality at the turn of the century caused Mrs. Sumner Whitten and a group of mothers to do something about it. As a result of their pleading, Holyoke's first Municipal Milk Station was opened on lower Sargeant Street, Ward II, in 1911. It was in this Ward that the infant death rate was unusually high at the time.

With the founding of the municipal milk station, milk for babies was prepared according to formula as ordered by the physicians who served the station. Here mothers were taught proper care of infants, scientific baby feeding and the fundamentals of sanitation.



MRS. WILLIAM (Evadine Cady) O'CONNOR

Women on the first Board of Directors included: Mrs. Sumner Whitten, Chairman; Mrs. S. R. Whiting, Secretary and Treasurer; Mrs. Frank Fay, Mrs. F. J. Cloutier, Mrs. J. Bertram Newton, Mrs. L. H. Clarke, Mrs. James D. Bardwell, Mrs. F. H. Allen, and Mrs. William G. Dwight. Dr. Jean Celce was an active member of its medical staff. Credit for initial success of the station belongs to the first professional person in charge, Miss Sadie Leion, who was both a trained nurse and gifted social worker. Another Milk Station Clinic nurse, who later served with distinction for seventeen years, was Evadine Cady O'Connor (Mrs. William E.) R.N., Holyoke native who trained for her profession at Columbia University and later Massachusetts General Hospital Training School for Nurses, from which she was graduated in the twenties. Miss Cady, as she was then, supplemented her fine background with several University Extension Courses in public health during her years at the Station.

Records show that during the Great Depression, through Miss Cady's efforts, two hundred quarts of skim milk were donated daily to the Station by Holyoke Producers Dairy. She herself tells how back in those days children and adults, as early as seven in the morning, lined up in front of the Station to receive their daily supply of milk. The allotment at the time was two quarts per person.

When the Milk Station's original function outlived its usefulness, the Municipal Child Welfare Clinic succeeded it. Mothers can now enroll in prenatal care classes at the Clinic. Clinical facilities are also available to pre-school children.

For work at the Clinic above and beyond the call of duty, Miss Cady received several citations from the Child Welfare Commission.

Mrs. Evadine Cady O'Connor extended her efforts in other fields as well. As Brownie Scout leader, Red Cross worker, and member of the War Manpower Commission, she earned the reputation of being an exacting and indefatigable worker.

Evadine O'Connor, whose husband William was a well-known and highly skilled commercial airline pilot, lived in New Jersey for several years. When Mr. O'Connor retired, the family returned to Holyoke.

Today, as mother and grandmother, she leads a comparatively quiet life spending her free time in reading, needlecraft and travel. She is a firm believer in the capacity of women to change things for the better. Mrs. O'Connor also agreed with most women interviewed that our country is having a difficult time as evidenced in the restlessness of people, the rise in cost of living and taxation, and the increase in drug and sex problems. Her outlook, however, was optimistic. "Our country," she said firmly, "will adjust and will come through."

A woman only indirectly connected with health care service, but deserving certainly of some recognition is Miss Gertrude H. Harrington, employed by the Child Welfare Commission as principal clerk-typist for forty-one years. The smooth operation of business functions at the Child Welfare Commission office is credited to Miss Harrington's perseverance and efforts. For dedication to the Commission's work, excellence in handling of public relations, accuracy in record keeping and detailed knowledge of the Commission's

operation, she is unsurpassed. For over four decades other personnel, professional and non-professional, have come and gone but Miss Harrington has remained at her post.

Miss Harrington, a graduate of Holyoke High School, attended Junior College only recently to familiarize herself with the Spanish tongue. Her devotion to her work and her diligence as a public servant demand approbation and applause.

Holyoke was also a pioneer in the fight against tuberculosis. Dr. Carl A. Allen was a leader in the city's crusade. Through his zeal and ceaseless efforts a campaign, unparalleled in design, was waged between 1907 and 1912 to rid the community of the horrible disease. By 1912, in Mayor N. P. Avery's last term of office, a tuberculosis sanitorium was built on a hillock in the vicinity of upper Cherry Street. At the time the state reimbursed the city five dollars a week per patient hospitalized in the sanitorium. Again, the city's women were not only in the forefront of the crusade, but also managed the hospital.

The first superintending nurse to whom credit must go for the tremendous strides made in the operation and governance of the sanitorium was Miss Edwina Chase, a graduate of Holyoke City Hospital. She was a tall, genteel, dignified individual who could be firm when firmness was required. She was also a kindly person, sensitive always to the suffering and needs of the patients. Of the sanitorium under the direction of Miss Chase, a state examiner who visited the hospital pronounced its management "the best in Massachusetts".

Dr. Carl A. Allen founded the Holyoke Tuberculosis Association which exists even to this day.

Women officers numbered among those staffing the first board of control included Mrs. M. S. Moriarty, Miss Mary C. Sheehan, and Miss Jennie E. Scollery.

Another woman of spirit was Mrs. R. S. Vining, the guiding force behind the organization of the Holyoke District Nurse Association in 1905. She was its first nurse. Other nurses who served their mission admirably in those early years were: Mrs. E. C. Potvin and Mrs. Christina Tye. The purpose of the Association, as expressed in a book published by the Transcript in 1912⁽¹⁰⁾ is cited herewith:

“The District Nurse goes as a health missionary into homes of suffering and need, teaching . . . the laws of health . . . Assistance is given in other ways than actual tending of the sick. Nourishing food is provided, needs in the way of clothing supplies, when possible, and often pressing temporary needs are satisfied.”

Rose K. Butler was probably one of the greatest leaders of social service in nursing that this community has ever known. She raised the level of the Visiting Nurse Association from that of a service practically unknown to one of stature second to none in the sphere of health care institutions. Her leadership in the field was so exceptional that in 1947, on the occasion of her passing, she was editorialized in the Transcript-Telegram. An excerpt from that editorial follows:

“She was that rare combination of a distinguished and efficient leader in the field as a nurse and public health force, who was most delightful in her meetings with all people. Her Holyoke public loved her. Rose Butler is one of the reasons why the entire level of our social service field here in Holyoke has come up and up during the last twenty years.”

(10) Holyoke 1882-1912. Holyoke Transcript

Miss Butler came to Holyoke in 1928 to assume the Executive Directorship of the VNA. Her experiential background was predictive of great things to come. She had been Chief Nurse of Base Five Hospital Unit in Britain during World War I. For excellent service in that post she was awarded the Royal Red Cross of the British Government. Following the war she spent some time in public health nursing at Simmons College; later, she went to New Rochelle, New York to organize a VNA unit in that city.

She began immediately upon arrival here to recruit appropriately trained nurses for VNA service and saw to it that frequently refresher courses were offered. She herself went about the community telling all who would listen just what the VNA was and what it had to offer.

Miss Butler, through her keen insight into Holyoke's problems, never asked more than the city could afford. She came in the low, dark days of the Great Depression, yet, she was able through intensive dedication to keep the VNA in operation throughout.

Miss Butler held memberships in the Holyoke Business and Professional Women's Club, Holyoke Quota, Holyoke Public Library Association and Holyoke Tuberculosis Association. She was a participating member of the First Congregational Church.

She served for twenty years as Executive Director of VNA. The VNA's Rose Butler Scholarship in her honor is a tribute to the respect in which she was held in her adopted city.

Today the original District Nursing group is known as the Holyoke Visiting Nurse Association.

At its helm is a trained, capable, and dedicated individual in the person of Catherine DiGioia Kapinos, Holyoke native who has served the public health field for upwards of a quarter century.

Catherine Kapinos, a quiet, reserved, and able woman has the personality and training for the responsible position she holds, that of Executive Director of the Holyoke Visiting Nurse Association. Her educational background, too, augurs well for the kind of service required in her special field. She is a graduate of Boston Children's Hospital and holds a B.S. Degree in Nursing from Simmons College. Additionally, she has earned a certificate in Public Health Nursing which she considers significant in preparation for a career in that phase of the Nursing Arts.

As all women who are leaders, Mrs. Kapinos finds herself involved in numerous public activities chief among which are the Holyoke Council for the Aging and Holyoke's Model Cities Health Center. She is keenly attuned to the health care needs of the aged and works diligently to see that their wants are met. Her philosophy of positivism is predictive of success in whatever she undertakes.

"I have," Catherine Kapinos says, "a strong personal belief that burdens can be borne and solutions found if we will but learn to accept, respond, and adjust to change . . . with a positive attitude we will succeed in time and be stronger as a result."

Catherine Kapinos is another reason why Holyoke should be proud of its women leaders this Historic One Hundredth.!

Health care specialists of a different branch from that of the physicians and surgeons hitherto discussed include two women who, when engaged in their respective practices, were among Holyoke's finest. The first, Dr. Grace C. FitzGibbon was an osteopath; the second, Dr. Mary Manning was a podiatrist. The former died in 1960; the latter is still living.

Dr. Grace, as she was known to her family and friends, was a highly esteemed professional from a remarkably gifted family. Her mother, Mrs. John (Mary A. Sullivan) FitzGibbon was Holyoke's first woman merchant; both brothers, Doctors Frank J. and John J., local dentists, were leaders extraordinary in their chosen life work. The latter, especially, was famous internationally for his achievements in the correction and treatment of cleft palates. Dr. Grace's sister, Mrs. Mary FitzGibbon Lathrop, was Springfield's first police-woman. Following right along in the family tradition today are two nephews, Dr. John H. FitzGibbon, M.D., and Dr. Frank J. FitzGibbon, D.D.S.

Dr. Grace FitzGibbon, native of Holyoke, was a graduate of Holyoke High School and held M.D. and M.O. degrees from the Massachusetts College of Osteopathy. Doctor began her practice in the Prew Building in 1918; later, circa 1926, she moved her offices to the newly constructed Hadley Falls Trust Company. Here she operated until a few years prior to her death. Her practice, well established from the beginning, grew with the years until it became almost too heavy for one woman to handle. But this she did handle alone, and more besides.!

Dr. Grace was one of Holyoke's most respected women leaders. A civic and social minded person,

she held offices in several clubs and charitable organizations. It is recalled how kindly she was to younger women coming up. She believed, as did Mrs. Minnie R. Dwight, a woman of prominence should never cut another woman down. Quota, the Business and Professional Women's Club, the Women's Club and the Holy Cross Chapter of the National Council of Catholic Women were her favorite organizations. In the first two, Doctor was particularly active having held positions of leadership from the Clubs' Charter days to the time of her death.

Dr. Grace was as generous as she was gifted. It is recalled that the writer, when President of Quota in the early fifties, presided over a Bazaar for Quota's Charities in the small ballroom of Roger Smith Hotel. Dr. Grace not only chaired a booth, but bought out nearly half of the merchandise on booths chaired by other Quotarians. Whatever she did with the candles, jewelry, wreaths, embroidery and trinkets purchased has ever remained a mystery. It is claimed she had many private charities. She was noted, too, for her contributions to the Neediest Families at Christmastime.

For several years Dr. Grace entertained Quotarians in her home on North Pleasant Street. The writer remembers with nostalgia the commanding and spacious living room with its bright walls, lively drapes and tremendous eye appeal. Recalled, too, are the warm hospitality, the genuine elegance, and the lack of pretentiousness.

At such meetings Dr. Grace could rally members to any cause; the younger ones present, as was the writer at the time, were awe-inspired with this woman's ability to get things moving.

The story of Dr. Grace FitzGibbon's contributions to the Holyoke of her time rivals the best. An excerpt from the Oracle of the Transcript-Telegram on the occasion of her death, March of 1960, is a tribute to her leadership:

"Dr. Grace practiced osteopathy here for many years and gave lavishly of her talents to the community. She was a tower of strength in 'women's' clubs: the Quota, the BPW, the Holyoke Women's Club. She knew that the worthwhile organizations had a purpose for existence, and she applied her energy to see to it that their missions were executed."

Dr. Mary Manning, podiatrist, public servant and civic leader, was born in Holyoke. After graduation from Rosary High School, she trained for her life work at Massachusetts College of Podiatry. From the latter she holds M.D. and M.O. degrees.

The old adage, a friend in need is a friend indeed, aptly applies to the character of this generous, understanding, and highly motivated woman. Countless individuals, men and women, owe much to the interest, moral support, and help Dr. Mary Manning extended in their behalf during her long years of service to Holyoke and its people.

For four decades Doctor practiced podiatry in this city in what is now the First Bank and Trust Building. It will be remembered that Dr. Grace FitzGibbon practiced osteopathy at the same location. Dr. Manning's offices were always filled with patients. Her practice was tremendous. They came from all walks of life. Her attitude was the same toward every one of them - kindly, solicitous, and helpful yet completely professional.

Despite the rigors of her work, Dr. Mary found time to serve Holyoke first as a School Com-

mitteeman 1938-40, and later 1944-68 as Commissioner on the Holyoke Board of Welfare. In both situations she enjoyed the reputation of having been honest and reliable. It has been said of her that when she gave her word, she kept it. If she said, "Yes", she meant yes; if "No", she meant no. She was a woman who in public life had the courage to make a decision and stand by it. As an acquaintance put it, "Dr. Mary Manning never promises anything she can't deliver."

Doctor was especially sensitive to the needs of the elderly. She made her services available to them in their homes when they could not make it to her Suffolk Street office. Her ever cheery disposition put those who were nervous and tense immediately at ease. The elderly liked to see her coming to visit with her, and to seek counsel on their fears, their concerns and their hopes. The patients were the better psychologically because of Doctor's optimistic attitude toward life and its vicissitudes.

Doctor was always "in there fighting" for the poor, the needy, and the depressed. It has been said of Dr. Mary Manning, too, that she was a great champion of the "underdog", and that her efforts in behalf of the deserving were incalculable.

Doctor's family, well respected through the years, consists of three brothers and three sisters: Michael, City Messenger for a number of years, now deceased; Patrick, police officer, also deceased; John at home; Mrs. Anna F. Manning O'Donnell in business for several years, now retired; Sally V. Manning, R.N., popular and well respected nurse; Catherine T., elementary teacher in the Holyoke Public Schools.

In writing of Dr. Mary Manning a fitting Latin motto comes to mind, "Non Nobis Solum" - "Not for Ourselves Alone". She was truly a woman who devoted a lifetime to the welfare of others.

Good health encompasses more than the physical well-being of an individual. Complementary to good physical well-being is wholesome mental health. Holyoke had no special clinic for the diagnosis and treatment of mental problems prior to 1953. It was at that time the city's first Area Mental Health Clinic came into existence. Curiously enough, this project, too, was initiated by women.

In the early fifties a Blue Ribbon Committee of Holyoke's Junior League, comprised of Marie (Mrs. John) Hazen, Anabel (Mrs. Richard) Murphy and Alice (Mrs. Benjamin) Childs visited the writer in her office (she was then Asst. Superintendent of Schools) to ascertain the extent to which, if at all, a mental health clinic was needed in Holyoke. The writer, for some time, had been advocating a guidance clinic for those children and youth suffering serious emotional problems. After much discussion it was decided that the writer would survey the city's Medical Profession to explore the extent to which the need was vital. Approximately seventy-five questionnaires were sent to the doctors, some sixty of which were returned. Except for two negative replies, fifty-eight physicians in the greater Holyoke area stated that a clinic was definitely needed. This marked the beginning of a long year's work which eventuated in the founding of Holyoke's first Area Mental Health Clinic in 1953.

The original Committee during the exploratory period was expanded to include representatives from labor, education, industry, medicine, and law.

Mrs. Anna Sullivan served admirably as a representative of labor.

For twenty years now the Clinic has flourished. From humble beginnings in 1953 with a staff of three, one of whom was a woman - Mrs. Alice Collins - it has expanded to a point where today it boasts a staff of twelve.

Originally, only children and their parents were admitted to the Clinic as the staff was small and funds inadequate. The year 1973, in contrast, is indicative of the growth of the Clinic's clientele. Now serving children, parents, and adults, new cases last year involved 257 children and 361 adults. A special out-patient clinic is maintained for adult patients.

To the Press, Junior League, the Medical Profession, Labor, Education, Law and its several different Advisory Boards goes a special salute for the interest and support brought to the Clinic during its twenty years of existence.

Few persons have been as active in the health care services as Mrs. Anne Burke Mahoney, R.N., and Dr. Mary E. O'Leary, R.N. Both have made considerable contributions to their profession, but each in a slightly different way.

Mrs. Anne Mahoney, widow of Dr. Stephen A. Mahoney, the Second, a notable Holyoke physician, has been a member of the Nursing profession for thirty years. Though not a native of Holyoke, Mrs. Mahoney has lived here since 1940. A graduate of Providence Hospital School of Nursing and College of Our Lady of the Elms, she supplemented her training by enrolling in graduate courses at Boston University, Cornell School of In-



MRS. ANNE B. MAHONEY

dustrial Relations, and University of Iowa's School of Nursing Education.

In addition to a rich life in the nursing profession ranging from general duty nurse to Head Nurse at Memorial Clinic, Holyoke - Mrs. Mahoney has been actively engaged in numerous professional organizations, and has held offices in several. Articles and position papers authored by her, as well as awards received for outstanding service to nursing, place this distinguished lady in a special category among women considered to have made a difference. Of several awards received are the following: For Meritorious Service from U.S. Public Health Service, 1947; Providence Hospital Alumnae Award for "Outstanding Contributions to Nurses and Nursing", 1965; AMA Honorary Pin, presented by Massachusetts Nurses Association, 1967; Honorary Recognition for Outstanding Service to the Profession, Convention at Detroit, 1972. Most recently, too, Mrs. Mahoney has been a member of the Advisory Committee, School of Nursing, Springfield Technical College and Chairman of a committee responsible for the Baccalaureate Program for RN's at the University of Massachusetts.

Anne Burke Mahoney, included in Who's Who in American Women, has a number of irons in the fire. Banking is her avocation. She has been a member of the Board of Park National Bank since 1969. She helped found the Western Massachusetts Retarded Children's Association and served on that board for many years. She is also noted for her support of philanthropic causes. As in the case of so many active women, space does not permit specific pursuit of her rich and varied career.

Mrs. Mahoney's views on Holyoke at this point in history are worth recording. "I think much must be done if Holyoke is to survive as any type city," she offered. "We need more women and more professional and business people to run for public office."

Mrs. Mahoney believes that people generally have become too apathetic about things as they are. We need, she said in substance, to speak out; we need to speak well of our history and to urge more young people to study history."

In her closing remarks, Mrs. Mahoney spoke of women. "There will always be women working hard in all phases of our life in this country and the world. I pray that one day they will be truly recognized for their abilities."

Mrs. Mahoney is one who is helping to make that nebulous dream come true.

Mary E. O'Leary, native of Holyoke, has been in nursing education for twenty years. Miss O'Leary has an excellent educational background: Diploma in Nursing, Providence Hospital School of Nursing, 1952; Boston College School of Nursing, B.S., 1954; Boston College Graduate School, M.S., 1958; Western New England Law School, J.D., 1966.

The writer became acquainted with Dr. O'Leary (Doctor of Jurisprudence) in the early sixties when the Licensed Practical Nurse Program was being installed at Holyoke Trade High School. Miss O'Leary applied for the instructorship of Nursing Arts at the school. She was recommended for and elected to it, because of her fine educational and experiential background. She became its guiding light and promoter from the moment she

assumed charge. As the program expanded, she was made its Department Head, a position she held with distinction and honor until Springfield Community Technical College in the late sixties offered her a position in its Division of Nursing. She serves the staff of that institute today.

Under the supervision of Miss O'Leary and another competent Head, the late Mrs. Irene Wilder, the LPN program at Trade became one of the best rated in the Commonwealth. Dr. Mary E. O'Leary's firm, knowledgeable, and competent leadership advanced this program beyond the dreams of its founder. Today, it still flourishes under the able direction of Miss Eleanor A. Hepburn, its Acting Head.

Miss O'Leary is Member of Theta Tau, Alpha Chi Chapter of the National Nursing Honor Society, and a member of HEW's Health Issue Advisory Panel to the Commission on Medical Malpractice. She is currently involved in completion of a text, *Legal Aspects of Nursing*. The latter interest stems from her studies in jurisprudence which led to a doctorate in that science.

Miss O'Leary's philosophy is that of a Christian humanist. Life, she believes, is what you make it. Her goal is "to develop self in light of my philosophy and share same with others." More will be heard of Mary E. O'Leary in the years ahead.

Of our younger people in the health care professions, Miss Mary Lou Burke, Holyoke native and Director of Research at Hycel, Inc., is one accomplishing exceptional achievements in the field of nuclear medicine.

A graduate of Our Lady of the Elms College and Mercy Hospital School of Medical

Technology, Miss Burke is a Registered Medical Technologist with special certification in nuclear medicine. From 1957 to 1966 this gifted young woman was engaged as hematologist and teaching supervisor at Mercy Hospital; between 1966 and 1972 she has been variously employed at Hycel, moving steadily upward from technical representative, product planning manager, and director of education to director of research services.

Miss Burke's ability in her special field is gaining wide recognition. In 1963, she was awarded the Clay-Adams Grant for original research; in 1966 she was listed in Outstanding Young Women of America. Her professional activities include a paper entitled, "Significance of Resistant Cell Hemoglobin" read before ASMT, and a paper published in 1964, "Survey of Resistant Cell Hemoglobin Phenomenon."

Miss Burke holds membership in the American Society of Medical Technologists, American Association of Clinical Chemists, College of Our Lady of the Elms Alumnae and Quota Club. Her leadership in associations with which she is affiliated has taken her to the top as president of Our Lady of the Elms College Alumnae 1963-67; Massachusetts Association of Medical Technologists 1966-67; Pioneer Valley Medical Technologists 1961-63; MAMT Scholarship Fund 1967-68.

Miss Burke is a credit to her parents, Mrs. Mary McCabe Burke and the late Mr. Edmund A. Burke, and to the college from which she was graduated. We shall undoubtedly hear more of Miss Burke in the future. Holyoke is proud to call her a native daughter.

Providence Hospital this year celebrates its Hundredth Anniversary. It is fitting on such an occasion to pay tribute to those Sisters who played a significant role in the hospital's growth and development, particularly those who staffed the Providence Hospital School of Nursing throughout the years. There was, of course, its prime mover, Mother Mary of Providence who founded the Training School; there were also Sisters Mary Hildegard, Mary Evangeline, Mary Gerard and Mary Norbert, all of whom succeeded in training hundreds of high-quality nurses to serve Holyoke and its environs.

One Sister, the Rev. Mary Magdalena, who served as Administrator of Providence Hospital from 1958 to 1971 deserves a special word of commendation for the cooperation she extended to the writer when the School Department's first Licensed Practical Nurse Training Program was being developed and subsequently implemented at Holyoke Trade High School. Sister, along with Mr. Harold Pine, Administrator of Holyoke Hospital and Mr. John Harrington of similar title at Soldiers' Home offered their respective hospitals and some supervisory staff for the practicum required of each LPN enrollee at Trade High School.

Sister's cooperation with health care agencies within the Holyoke community was extraordinary. Though no longer at Providence Hospital, the example set by her is destined to have a lasting effect on those who succeed her.

Sister Mary Magdalena, an outstanding administrator, was named a member of the College of Hospital Administrators in 1963. Presently she is Medical Librarian in Doctors' Library at St. Vincent's Hospital in Worcester.

Today Holyoke can be justifiably proud of its women in the health care professions. Though much has been accomplished in one century, much yet remains to be done. We can only look with faith to the future secure in the belief that our hospitals, doctors, nurses and health care associations will continue to utilize their invaluable skills to promote the preservation of life in the unfathomable years ahead.



DR. PHOEBE COX



DR. MYRA B. SHAYEVITZ



DR. LULU WARNER

CHAPTER VI

WOMEN IN PUBLIC LIFE AND PUBLIC SERVICE

"Whatever the place allotted us by Providence, that is for us the post of honor and duty. God estimates us not by the position we are in, but by the way in which we fill it."

- TRYON EDWARDS

Holyoke's first woman to hold elective public office was Elizabeth (Mrs. William E.) Towne. It takes tremendous courage to seek public office; once elected, however, it takes the utmost valor to serve that office with honor, dignity, and awareness. Mrs. Towne, a most unusual woman, possessed both the courage to seek public office and the valor to sustain her convictions. Measured by the best of standards, she was a most talented woman, one who served her city as its first woman Alderman from 1927 to 1929.

Mrs. Towne was not a Holyoke native. She came to this city in 1900 and brought with her a "new thought" magazine, which she founded called *The Nautilus*. With her husband and son, she published the magazine which was destined to become one of the most popular philosophical periodicals of its time. It has been recorded that the success of her efforts in "new thought" were phenomenal. the magazine's circulation increased from thirty-five hundred to hundreds of thousands at its peak. A 1912 Souvenir Edition of the "Transcript" speaks thus of *The Nautilus* and its readers:

"There is hardly a civilized or uncivilized country on the Globe where the mails of the Postal Union penetrate that Nautilus doesn't visit regularly, even to the Fiji Islands and Macedonia. . . . In English-speaking countries the Nautilus goes to the

homes of all sorts of people - proletariat, bourgeoisie, and aristocrat."

Mrs. Towne was a well-known figure in the Holyoke of her time. As editor and publisher of the *Nautilus*, she gained considerable stature. In the Holyoke community, her popularity stemmed from active interest in civic and social life. She was a zealot for the cause of woman suffrage; a sponsor of worthy reforms, and a politician willing to fight for the things in which she believed. An ardent club woman, Mrs. Towne held office in many women's organizations.

Those who remember her well speak of Mrs. Towne as a woman of power and beauty - a tall, impressive, and imposing individual with snapping eyes and a quick tongue. Because of her excellent command of English, she was in frequent demand as a public speaker. The writer recalls how in the thirties, she had been invited by Mrs. Towne to give a poetry recital in the latter's home. She was not only received most kindly by her hostess, but she was encouraged to pursue a career in writing. Fate, however, had destined otherwise.

The home of the *Nautilus* at the corner of Cabot and Oak Street still stands, but it is no longer in the hands of the Towne family. Few who go back to the thirties will be able to pass that home without some nostalgic memories of the unique lady who was its mistress.

Mrs. Elizabeth Towne opened the door for other women to blaze political trails which she alone was the first to pioneer. She was a woman fired with a will to mold life to her own purpose and for the common good of humanity. The German poet Schiller on occasion remarked, "Man is

made great or little by his own will." Because Elizabeth Towne had the will to do, she was able to mold life to her liking. In her personal achievement and in her public service she brought credit and honor to the Holyoke community.

Mrs. Margaret Green served as Alderman-at-Large in this city from 1934 to 1945. Here was another remarkable leader of women, whose membership on the Board of Aldermen, covering a ten-year span, did much to improve our government's level of operation.

Not only did Mrs. Green succeed in local politics; she was most active in Republican circles at state and national levels. At different points in her living she achieved prominence as Vice-Chairman of the Republican State Committee, Republican National Committeewoman, and member of the G.O.P. Contest Committee.

Dwight D. Eisenhower called politics a profession, "a serious, complicated, and in its true sense, a noble one." Mrs. Green served this profession well, recognizing fully its character, its challenge, and its shortcomings.

Mrs. Margaret (Martin) Seibel served as Alderman-at-Large concurrently with Mrs. Green for one term only (1940-42). Her husband, Mr. Howard Seibel, was brother to the late Edwin Seibel, Mayor of Holyoke, more than two decades ago. Though she did not pursue a political career beyond that of service on the Aldermanic Board, she brought a woman's point of view to the Aldermanic Chambers.

Neither Mrs. Green nor Mrs. Seibel longer reside in the Holyoke community. When residents, however, they pioneered, as did all women

Aldermen, in a branch of government completely dominated by men until Elizabeth Towne invaded the ranks in 1927.

One who served longer as Alderman-at-Large than any other lady elected to that office was Mrs. P. M. (Esther Sears) Lynch. Mrs. Lynch, the writer recalls, was a college-educated woman - serious-minded, and knowledgeable. Those who knew her intimately claim she was politically sophisticated, deliberate of manner, and completely immersed in the challenges of her time.

Mrs. Lynch was a Holyoke native and a graduate of Mt. Holyoke College. She was an intelligent woman, one who never stopped learning. In a day when not too many women did graduate work, Mrs. Lynch studied at Harvard and at L'Alliance Française in Paris.

Her lifework, interesting and varied, encompassed such different fields as education, business, and politics. In the latter she served Holyoke with distinction as Alderman-at-Large for eighteen years having been first elected to that position in 1938. Records show that she was an excellent vote getter. In November of 1949 she led the Alderman-at-Large ticket, polling 12,852 votes.

Most leaders of women, whether in politics or other fields of endeavor, are never too busy to become involved in groups organized to promote the public good. Esther Sears Lynch was no exception. She was a prominent club woman with numerous social and civic connections in Holyoke and beyond.

That Mrs. Lynch had great propensity for leadership is evident from the many offices she held in more active years. She served as president

of the Hampden County Women's Club and the Holyoke Women's Club. She was a director of the Fourteenth District of the Massachusetts Federation of Women's Clubs, a member of the Board of Directors of Hampden County Children's Aid, the Holyoke Visiting Nurse Association, the Holyoke Home Information Center, and Executive Board of the Skinner Coffee House. She also served on the Parks and Recreation Commission for six years.

Esther Sears Lynch enjoyed the fellowship of people. Further evidence of her gregarious nature is indicated in her affiliation with educational and professional groups. She held membership in the Springfield College Club, the American Association of University Women, Le Cercle Français, the Tuesday Club and the Holyoke Business and Professional Women's Club.

Mrs. Lynch was the daughter of Thomas H. and Mary A. F. McElwain Sears. She married Patrick M. Lynch, active Holyoke building contractor. Death came to her April 9, 1955. The words of Washington Irving come appropriately to mind, "There is a remembrance of the dead to which we turn even from the charms of the living." Mrs. Esther Sears Lynch is one who is worthy of such a tribute.

Holyoke, since Mrs. Towne's day, has seen six women serve on the city's Board of Aldermen. These include Mrs. Margaret Green, Mrs. Esther Sears Lynch, Mrs. Inez Goss, Mrs. Margaret S. Seibel, Miss Bertha Dean and Miss Mary M. McLaughlin. Of the six, the last and youngest had the distinction of leading the Alderman-at-Large ticket in the 1965 elections and still serves on the Board. Mrs. Esther Sears Lynch and Miss Bertha

Dean have passed on. Mrs. Inez Goss is living still and is partially active.

Mrs. Inez C. Goss joined the Holyoke community in 1916. Though comparatively a late comer, her service to Holyoke has been such that her name and deeds are known to all. Interest in her fellow man and in the good of her country prompted her decision to run for Alderman. She served in that office for six years, 1948 to 1955.

Mrs. Goss contributed greatly to the welfare of the Holyoke community. Her activities were numerous. During the Second World War she chaired the Women's Division in the drive for the sale of U. S. War Bonds and sold the first "Baby



MRS. EDWIN C. (Inez) GOSS

War Bond" in the drive. For her zeal in the War Bond Campaign, Mrs. Goss was recipient of a citation from the federal government. In the height of her service few there were who would have been unaware of her connection with such diverse activities as Girl Scouts, Red Cross, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Gold Star Mothers, Women's Relief Corps, U. S. Hospital at Leeds and Holyoke Soldier's Home. She is reported to have rendered more than 12,000 hours of volunteer service to worthy causes. Mrs. Goss will be remembered too for her eight years of service as a member of the War Memorial Commission over which she presided as Chairman for two years. She organized American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., and served for several years as President.

Her life goal, stated simply in her own words, is laden with meaning, "to be able to keep doing the little things that mean so much to so many."

Today, though no longer an active aspirant to public office, Mrs. Goss evinces a lively interest in political and social questions of the day and continues to help where she can. Volunteer work, knitting, ceramics, and travel occupy her full and fruitful days.

Between 1955 and 1966, not a woman served on the city's Board of Aldermen. A conviction that the Board needed a woman's point of view led Mary M. McLaughlin, a young political novice, to become a candidate for Alderman-at-Large. She not only succeeded in winning the election but to the amazement of all she topped the ticket, polling even more votes than a veteran Alderman of eighteen years' dedicated service. Miss McLaughlin is now completing her eighth year as Alderman-at-



MISS MARY McLAUGHLIN

Large and during that period has experienced all the trials and tribulations common to those who serve the public in these hectic and uncertain times. As did those who preceded her, Miss McLaughlin seems to be able to weather any storm and to move with a steadfastness of purpose second to none.

During her incumbency, Miss McLaughlin has served on several Committees with conscious awareness of what she considered was the public good. In her first terms of office her activities embraced membership on the Ordinance Committee, Urban and Industrial Renewal Committee, and the School Construction and Expansion Committee. She also chaired the Public Welfare and Offstreet Parking Committees, respectively. So we could go on.

The writer recalls that when Miss McLaughlin served on the School Construction and Expansion Committee, the problem of whether or not to build

a junior high school on Crosier Field was the burning question of the hour. One day the writer was invited to discuss over luncheon with her and a member of the press the issues involved so that, prior to voting on the matter, she would be in receipt of all aspects of the problem. At that time she attacked the advantages and disadvantages fairly, impartially, and quite candidly. She then gave her word that she would support the school on its merits and she did. Others may have wavered, but Mary M. McLaughlin held to her conviction that, based on the facts, a new junior high school was needed in Holyoke.

Miss McLaughlin, in addition to supporting a junior high school, was one of three Aldermen who in 1967 voted to revive interest in the study of Urban Renewal for the Ward IV area. The Transcript-Telegram carried an editorial in its July 11, 1967 issue praising the stand of the three Aldermen involved.

Miss McLaughlin, the youngest of seven children born to Mrs. Mary McVeigh McLaughlin and the late James McLaughlin, was educated in the local schools and attended Our Lady of the Elms College. She continues to achieve not only in the field of public service but also in volunteer work. Among other interests are the Holyoke Tuberculosis Association, Holy Cross Chapter, National Council of Catholic Women, the Committee of the National Council against Crime and Juvenile Delinquency, and Urban Ministry, Inc.

Holyoke women have served not only on the Board of Aldermen; they also have sought election to the School Committee and met with overwhelming success in their respective candidacies.

The first lady School Committee member was Mrs. Almira Cox. Her husband, Dr. Gardner Cox, was an eminent Holyoke physician. Later, two of her children, a son Gardner and a daughter, Phoebe, were also to become physicians.

Mrs. Cox was elected a Committeewoman-at-Large in 1929. During her years of service, 1929 to 1931, Mrs. Cox chaired the First District Committee and was also assigned membership on the High School, Special Departments, Evening Schools and Attendance Committees. It was during her years of service that Holyoke's first public school survey, the famous Columbia Survey, was approved by the School Committee. This was a complete and thoroughgoing study of the building, staff, and curricular needs of all units of the school system.⁽¹⁾ The survey, when completed, served as a bible for public school planning for upwards of twenty-five years.

A woman leader for whom the writer has always had profound respect, Marie (Weis) Hazen, was elected to the School Committee in 1947 and served on that Board with honor and distinction until 1958. Her father, Joseph Weis, also served as Committeeman-at-Large, 1917-20, when the city was still in its youth.

Mrs. Marie N. Hazen, wife of the late John N. Hazen, prominent citizen and industrialist, moved to Holyoke when a child. She was graduated from Holyoke High School and Vassar College. Even in her younger years, Mrs. Hazen took a lively interest in affairs involving community action for the public good. Her main activities were, for the most part, those connected with the care and welfare of children and youth.

(1) Annual Report of the Holyoke Public Schools. Vol. 65, 1928, P.10

The efforts Mrs. Hazen extended in behalf of the children of working mothers have been unparalleled in Holyoke's history. "My aim or goal," she once told the writer, "has always been to make a substantial contribution to the life of children and youth." Long before becoming a Committeewoman she spearheaded a plan to establish nursery and day care centers for the so-called "Doorkey" children, youngsters who wandered the streets unsupervised and often unfed while mothers worked. The nomenclature "Doorkey" came from house keys suspended on a cord and worn about the neck.

Lanham Act funds secured in the early forties made it possible to establish quality Nursery-Day Care Centers in several of Holyoke's public Schools. During the War years, this city had more Day Care Centers than any other of comparable size in New England. Today, for lack of space, Holyoke has but two such Centers; nevertheless, this community at present is the only city in the State with Nursery-Day Care Centers partially subsidized by the local community.

In 1942, William Morrow and Company published a book entitled *Children's Centers, A Guide For Those Who Care For and About Children*. It was edited by one Rose H. Alschuler, then Chairman of the National Commission for Young Children. On pages 22 and 23 is a toast by Dr. M. McFarland, then of Mt. Holyoke College, to the community-minded individual and others who cooperated in getting Day Care Centers started in Holyoke. The toast, in part, reads as follows:

" . . . The Chairman of the Children's Aid is a woman . . . who has been wonderfully helpful in making contacts and doing all sorts of things to interest the community (in Day Care Centers)".

The woman for whom the honor was intended was Mrs. Marie Hazen.



MRS. JOHN (Marie Weis) HAZEN

When Lanham Act Funds were withdrawn, Mrs. Hazen led the fight for state support of these Centers and finally won the long and hard-fought battle.

The writer never heard Mrs. Hazen raise her voice. Always, even in tense moments, she was calm and soft-spoken, but was also firm and articulate. She was wont to reflect a statesmanlike image in her public utterances; for this reason her service was sought beyond the confines of the Holyoke community.

In 1950 Mrs. Hazen was appointed to the White House Conference on Children and Youth; shortly prior to this date she was appointed by Governor Bradford to the State Committee on Juvenile Delinquency. The work of this Committee resulted

in the establishment of the Massachusetts Youth Service Board. Mrs. Hazen was a member of this Board for six years.

This indefatigable woman was a prime mover in the founding of the Child Guidance Clinic, more recently known as the Area Mental Health Clinic. As president and director of that organization, she strove to expand staff and increase funding.

Marie Hazen's contributions to this community have been boundless. She helped found the Junior Service Corps and worked to organize the Junior League of Holyoke, Inc. Whether serving as a sustaining member of the League or Director of Red Cross she never failed to discharge her duties to the best of her ability.

In 1958 Mrs. Hazen became the nineteenth winner of the coveted William G. Dwight Award for Distinguished Service to the Holyoke community. It marked a singular occasion in that her father, Joseph B. Weis, was first recipient in 1940.

The late Dr. William R. Peck spoke often of Mrs. Hazen's able service on the School Committee. She always knew the difference, he was apt to say in substance, between the role of a Committeeman and the role of the Superintendent. She understood her function was policy and the Superintendent's was implementation of policy. She never confused the two.

From a Superintendent's point of view, no greater tribute could be paid her.

Today, Mrs. Hazen, though retired from public service, is still vitally interested in all phases of the city's civic and social life. She told the writer, "I love Holyoke and I have faith that it will rebuild and renew itself."

Mrs. Hazen has one son, Thomas, and three grandchildren. Her husband, the late John N. Hazen, was president of the Hazen Paper Company.

When the writer thinks of Marie Weis Hazen, and her lifelong interest in the welfare of children, the words of Edna St. Vincent Millay somehow keep running through her mind, "Childhood is the kingdom where nobody dies."

Another dedicated public servant, Dr. Mary Frances Manning, served on the School Committee 1938-1940. Her outstanding career in politics, health care, and public service is covered in Chapter V.

Miss Dora Fitzgerald, R.N. was elected School Committeewoman from Ward Six in 1940 and served in that capacity from 1941 through 1947.

This was a woman well-known in the community because of her endless desire to help others. In her years of service in this city, first as Supervisor of Nurses at Holyoke Isolation Hospital and Sanitarium, and later as Public Health Nurse, that desire was fulfilled. It has been said of Dora Fitzgerald that she was unafraid to try the new in her chosen profession and equally unafraid to take the unpopular step when she felt it would benefit others.

Dora Fitzgerald was another of those rare individuals who, having settled on a goal for living, thereupon sought to devote total energy to the fulfillment of that goal. With Miss Fitzgerald, her life's aim was service, which she rendered unstintingly in her chosen field of nursing and in her avocation, politics.

Born in Boston, Miss Fitzgerald came to Holyoke in her childhood. She was educated in local schools and graduated from St. Vincent's Hospital School of Nursing in New York City. Training at St. Vincent's was augmented by further study at Johns Hopkins University. Before returning to Holyoke she was engaged in private duty in New York.

The writer knew Dora Fitzgerald as a family friend. She was a gentle, kindly, intelligent woman devoted to her family and ever ready to help others. Her colleagues in the nursing profession unflinchingly spoke of Miss Fitzgerald as one who harbored warm feelings for her fellowman. On the School Committee she was impartial in her judgment, a person who could be counted upon to be fair at all times. The writer attests to her high sense of empathy, understanding, and fairness.

The Holyoke Teacher Selection Plan for the impartial and non-discriminatory rating of candidates seeking election to the Holyoke Public Schools was the outstanding policy enunciated during Miss Fitzgerald's terms of office.

Dora Fitzgerald was one of four sisters who devoted a lifetime of service to the public good. Helen was teacher and principal in the city's schools. Julia was a highly respected teacher of French in the Modern Language Department of Holyoke High School. Ann (Mrs. George Donoghue) was an outstanding nursery and kindergarten teacher.

Miss M. Bertha Dean, deceased since 1951, was born in this city around the turn of the century or just prior to it. She was the only woman ever elected to two different boards in the one hundred

years since Holyoke's founding: (1) the Board of Aldermen, and (2) the Holyoke School Committee in 1950 as Committeewoman from Ward Five.

Miss Dean was graduated from St. Jerome High School and Northeastern University School of Law. She held for several years prior to her death an executive position of importance at American Tissue Mills and this at a time when but few women were able to aspire to top posts anywhere.

Attesting to Miss Dean's ability as a vote-getter was her election to the two boards of the city's municipal family. According to friends who remember her well, she was a quiet, sincere, and cheerful person with a wide circle of acquaintances and friends.

Some colleagues who served with Miss Dean have noted that she was effective as a Committeewoman mainly because she never became tense, emotional, or disconcerted regardless of the issues involved.

Miss M. Bertha Dean was indubitably a potentially able public figure - intelligent, imaginative, and creative. She also participated actively in the life of the community. She was a member of Red Cross, the Business and Professional Women's Club, Massachusetts Bar Association, and Charter Member of the Catholic Library Association.

Serving the School Committee today from Ward Three is Holyoke-born Anne Hearn McHugh (Mrs. John), elected to that post in 1970. January of 1972, Committee members chose her as their Chairman, an almost unprecedented honor for one so shortly in office.



MRS. JOHN (Anne Hearn) McHUGH

Anne Hearn McHugh, wife of Dr. John McHugh, prominent Holyoke physician, is one of a kind. This active, enthusiastic, extrovertic young woman has in a brief two years made an indelible impression on all with whom she has come in contact. Always popular in her own circles, she spiraled to community popularity almost overnight for the excellent image she has projected as a School Committeewoman of action. Anne McHugh is un-

afraid of getting herself involved in the cause of community betterment.

As a committeewoman, Mrs. McHugh takes her commitment seriously. She works unstintingly to make Holyoke's public schools the best possible, not with the idea of placing them in a competitive position with other area schools, but better still, with the determination of insuring to the children and youth of Holyoke the optimum in educational programing. It is to achieve this end that her efforts are boundless.

Mrs. McHugh, in her own words, finds service on the School Committee "intellectually stimulating and tremendously challenging." Her educational background has prepared her well to assume a position of community leadership. She was graduated from Sacred Heart High School in 1954 and Mount St. Mary's College, Hooksett, N.H. in 1958. Following the earning of an A.B. Degree, she enrolled in Boston College School of Social Work, where she spent a year in graduate study 1958-59.

Her course work in sociology and an innate sense of fairness provide Mrs. McHugh with the skills necessary to understand the kinds of problems children and youth face in today's world.

She also has had the good sense to realize that School Committee and Superintendent cannot be going off in different directions if goals for the common good are to be realized.

Mrs. McHugh has rendered service beyond the call of duty. She has given intelligent and ceaseless support to programs and projects of the schools' administration. She has backed the Superintendent unfailingly in school building projects, curriculum

reorganization, team teaching, programs for the minorities, bilingual education, and other significant innovative departures too numerous to mention.

As wife, mother, and Committeewoman, the day never seems long enough to get things done. Despite obstacles, Mrs. McHugh moves fearlessly forward. Her husband, Dr. John McHugh, has helped tremendously, too. He does not resist his wife's role as a School Committeewoman. Because Doctor himself is community-involved, he has a sense of empathy for Mrs. McHugh's desire to serve.

When questioned about her philosophy of life, Mrs. McHugh without hesitation replied, "I believe a person can make a difference. I have total faith in the basic goodness of man and his ability to shape his own destiny."

In the field of public relations, Mrs. McHugh performs unquestionably well. She is open, sincere, and accurate. Where Mrs. McHugh is concerned, there is never danger of a credibility gap. She is both liked and respected by the communications' media.

She has thoughts, too, on Holyoke as the city's "Historic One Hundredth" fades into yesterday. "I have great hope for Holyoke," she volunteered. "There is real progress in many areas. Holyoke's people are its greatest strength, and their concern for their city will be its best hope."

Though attuned to the world of the living present, Mrs. McHugh feels that some valid values and traditions have been lost in the upheavals of the present, but, with customary optimism and foresight, she remarked to the writer, "I feel we are

entering a period of reaffirmation of the values and traditions that (in the past) have been this country's strength."

In writing of Mrs. McHugh, the Latin proverb "Sic itur ad astra", comes to mind - "Such is the path to the stars."

Dr. and Mrs. McHugh have four children: Catherine, John, Peter and Elizabeth.

In one hundred years, only six women have served on the School Committee. In the next century this number should be doubled.

In Holyoke's political arena at least one woman was not only a public servant herself, but also sister, wife, and mother, respectively, to three significantly outstanding public officials. Margaret V. Coughlin Donahue was that distinguished lady. Her brother Patrick Coughlin, deceased, probably served longer on the Holyoke Board of Aldermen than any person in the city's history; her husband, Maurice G., served at different points in time on the Board of Aldermen, the School Committee, and the Hampden County Board of Commissioners; her son, the Honorable Maurice A. Donahue, served in the General Court of this Commonwealth for twenty-two years and as President of the Senate for eight.

As sister, wife, and mother of politicians, Mrs. Donahue was at ease with the great and the near great in that field. She entertained in her own home the late John F. Kennedy before his ascendancy to the Presidency, and brother Edward Kennedy prior to his election to the United States Senate. The list of other notables is much too lengthy to pursue further. Suffice it to say, in Mrs. Margaret Donahue's home the civic good of the ci-



MRS. MARGARET (Coughlin) DONAHUE

ty, state, and nation was ever a subject of interest and concern.

Despite involvement with the political life of her family, Mrs. Margaret Donahue had a life of her own. She was, in a sense, a self-made woman. Though the mother of five children, she prepared herself for business by enrolling in Holyoke Business School's evening division. If the opportunity came, she would be ready. The opportunity did come. When the position of Assistant Librarian opened in the Hampden County Law Library she sought and was appointed to it. In 1959 she was made Head Librarian.

Mrs. Donahue's chief goal in life was to raise a family and give each member a good education. This she did by dint of hard work and incessant effort. When in 1937 her husband County Commissioner Maurice G. Donahue died, Mrs.

Donahue was elected to his seat. She served creditably in this capacity for two years.

Mrs. Donahue is the kind of woman with whom others feel immediately "at home". She possesses warm, friendly and well-disposed personality, and is ever ready to lend a helping hand in times of need.

The offspring of Maurice G. Donahue and Margaret V. Coughlin Donahue include: Maurice, who had risen to President of the Senate, General Court of Massachusetts; Mrs. Margaret C. Bowler, a teacher in the Holyoke Public Schools; Rosemary, Mrs. Robert F. Bowe; Florence, Mrs. James A. Corriden; and the Rev. Father John Paul, deceased.

Few women in the Commonwealth have achieved the distinction of an appointment to a city's Law Department. Those who have are certainly in the minority. Attorney Ann M. Martin Gibbons, wife of Attorney Leonard Gibbons, has achieved that honor. Today she serves Holyoke's law division in the capacity of its first female Associate City Solicitor.

Before becoming an attorney, Mrs. Gibbons in pre-marriage days taught school, first at Anna Maria College in Paxton and later at Springfield Technical College. A Baccalaureate Degree from the College of Our Lady of the Elms, and a Master's from Clark University served as points of departure for a degree in Jurisprudence, J.D., from Western New England College.

Mrs. Gibbons, a young woman, is intelligent, alert, and extremely active. She moves in several different directions with the energy of a dynamo. Whether in the role of mother, barrister or teacher,

she plays each without fanfare. Her philosophy of life, she explains, is a simple one. "It is," she offered, "to do well whatever has to be done."

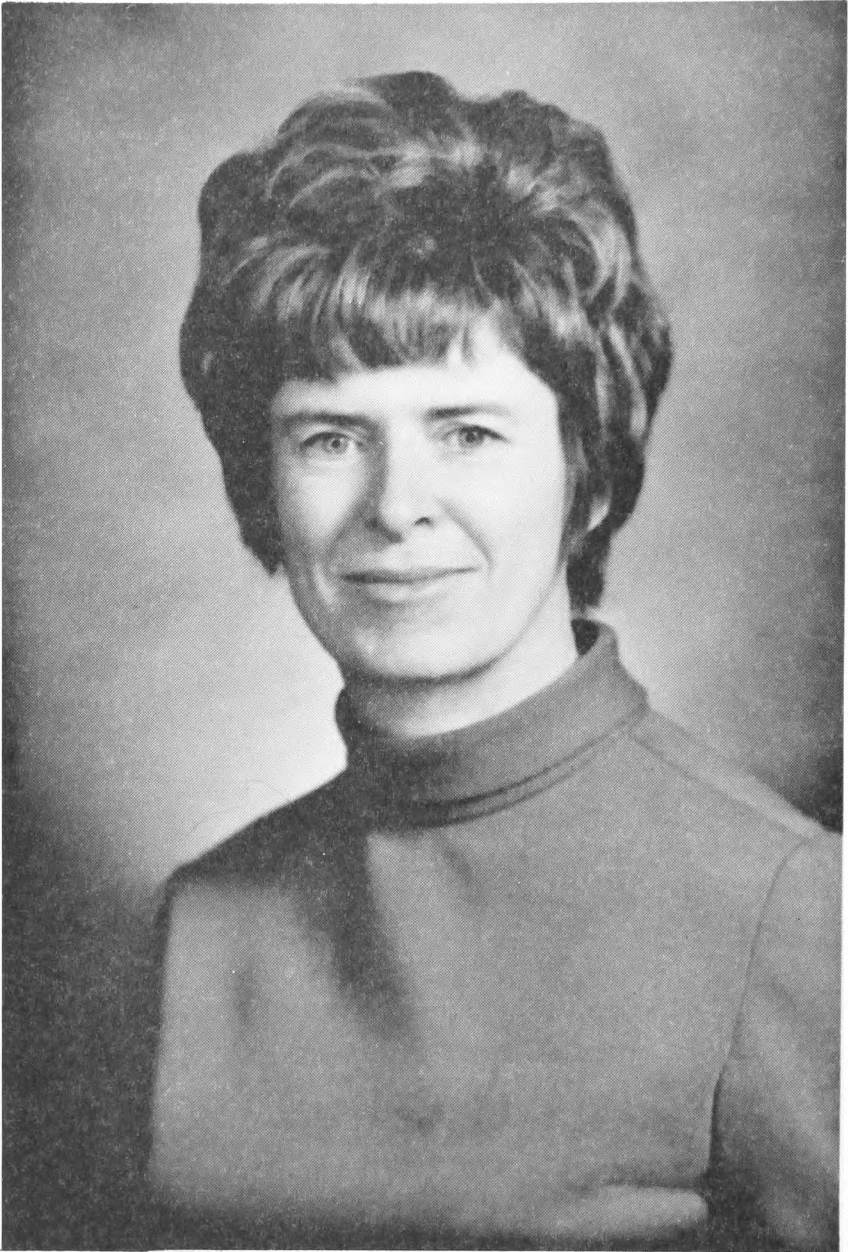
Mrs. Gibbons, despite the serious tenor of her work, is a happy, cheerful, outgoing personality with a strong sense of humor and a ready wit. She seems to be one who takes everything in stride - her children, her career, and her community involvements. As a mother it is her ambition to rear good citizens; as an attorney, her chief desire is to make the law work; as a member of the community, it is her wish to help wherever she can. She is succeeding in doing all three well.

From 1958 on, Ann Gibbons has taught law at Springfield College and has taught a course too, called "Legal Aspects of Nursing", at Cooley Dickinson Hospital. Her activity is limitless.

The clubs and associations in which Mrs. Gibbons holds membership are many: Quota Club, Business and Professional Women's Club, Massachusetts and Hampden County Bar Associations, and Alumnae Association, College of Our Lady of the Elms. She is a member, too, of the Steering Committee of the Diocesan Board of Education, and Cathedral Lay Advisory Committee.

In 1972 Mrs. Gibbons was the recipient of the Distinguished Alumnae Award from the College of Our Lady of the Elms. She served in the past as President of the College's Alumnae Association and has been most active in promoting its welfare.

Attorneys Leonard and Ann Gibbons are the parents of four children: Mary, Edward, John and Leonard.



MRS. LEONARD (Ann Martin) GIBBONS

Sub-Rosa: The writer was Attorney Leonard Gibbons' junior high school teacher, her first year of teaching in Holyoke.

In addition to those who serve the community in public or appointive service, there were women who, as political leaders, promoted the cause of their respective parties. These women rarely sought public office for themselves; they were rather those who took pleasure and pride in spurring their respective candidates on to victory.

Mrs. P. J. (Josephine L. Fitzgerald) Driscoll was a tremendous worker for the Democratic Party and was an active member of that party for forty-four years. She was made Honorary Life Member in 1961. Not only did she rise to the Vice-Chairmanship of the Democratic City Committee, but she had also the distinction of becoming the first Democratic State Committeewoman in this Commonwealth. She loved the Democratic Party with a zeal common to few, and she spent a goodly share of her life spreading its gospel.

Mrs. Driscoll was Holyoke born and educated. She lived in Holyoke her entire life. Love for her city, church, family, and politics was parallel. This fine individual enjoyed the reputation of being a shrewd businesswoman. She owned and managed several properties in the Elmwood section of the city. With profits accrued from rents and her husband's small income (the late Lt. P. J. Driscoll was a member of the Holyoke Police Department), she succeeded in making a college education available to her children. All later became successful in their chosen fields.

Today the terms "involved" and "involvement" are used as if they were only recently discovered. Mrs. Driscoll, deceased in 1965, had been involved in community action decades before the words became "in" terms. She was Director of

Family Service for thirty years and was the recipient of the "Twenty-Five Year Service Award" from that agency.



MRS. PATRICK (Josephine L. Fitzgerald)
DRISCOLL

She served several associations in the following positions of leadership: Regent, Trinity Circle, Daughters of Isabella; Chief Ranger, Howard Court, Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters; President, Maria Mission Circle, Guild of St. Agnes; Secretary, Ladies Auxiliary, A.O.H. She was a charter member of Holyoke Women's Club and Holyoke Speakers' Club. She was also a Member of Holyoke's original League of Women Voters.

An early advocate of women's suffrage, Mrs. Driscoll supported it militantly. She was one of the first of the City's women to vote when the franchise was won.

Mrs. Driscoll was a member of an Elmwood neighborhood bridge club to which the writer's mother also belonged. The club met periodically in one another's homes for years. Before bridge actually did get underway, it was customary for Mrs. Driscoll to inform the ladies - Republicans and Democrats present - of the latest news in the world of politics. She was an extremely well-read woman. In election year she knew every political candidate by name, also the plank on which each was running. The bridge club was in itself, a little League of Women Voters.

Today, John E. Driscoll, only living son of Lt. and Mrs. P. J. Driscoll, is a Charter Life Underwriter and Licensed Life Insurance Advisor. James Driscoll died in his boyhood, and Robert G. in his youth. Two daughters, Marie C., graduate of Smith College, and Claire I., graduate of Columbia School of Nursing, now married, no longer live in this city.

Several women, in addition to those who served in elective offices, rose to positions of prominence in public service. Rita M. Leary, Holyoke's first female City Treasurer, was appointed to that enviable position but several months ago, succeeding Joseph E. Lucey who held the post with distinction for many years.

Miss Leary, Holyoke native, is a graduate of Holyoke High School and holds an Associate in Arts Degree from Boston University. She finds her work challenging and rewarding. Her interest in



MISS ANNETTE GRANDCHAMP,
Clerk, Holyoke District Court

and love for the Holyoke community are genuine. She is of the opinion that if the city ever needed the help of its people, it is now. "Help Holyoke," Miss Leary says, "and you help yourself."

Holyoke, this conscientious lady believes, has a number of directions in which people can move to improve human life. Youth and the elderly, she predicts, need help: the elderly that they may live in dignity; youth that they may re-assess their values and learn to appreciate opportunities.

Miss Leary, though in a "top job", has never lost her femininity. She is popular in City Hall circles, where she is treated with the utmost respect. Miss Rita Leary is responsible for all monies necessary to the operation of the city. She handles her responsibilities easily and effectively. Miss Leary has always maintained the image of a lady.

Miss Rita Moran, Office Manager in the School Department, is the first to have achieved that title. Frank, open, honest, and capable, Miss Moran has earned a high place among women officials of the municipal family. She supervises office personnel, oversees budgetary accounts, and keeps the various offices running smoothly.

Miss Moran succeeded another principal clerk of some forty or more years with the Department, Miss Frances Callahan. She, too, was a most capable leader - intelligent, conscientious, and hard-working. The title of the position she held was changed to Office Manager when the Department expanded in the sixties.

Prior to the coming of Central Purchasing, the position of purchasing clerk was considered one of the top slots in municipal departments and paid one of the top salaries. In the School Department that classification no longer exists but in its day three women served the city with dignity and honor: Miss Agnes Cadieux, one of the first of her ethnic origin to achieve so high a post; Miss Ellen Scannell,* her successor, now with Holyoke Junior College, and Miss Mary Reardon, with the Department from 1945, retiring in February 1973. She was the last person to serve in that classification.

Miss Eleanor Murphy, Executive Secretary of Holyoke's Retirement Board, is another member of the municipal family serving in a post of significant importance. Miss Murphy, a pleasant and cooperative lady, does her work capably and conscientiously.

At still another point in time, Mrs. Harriet Kroepel served an unusually long period with the Board of Registrars. Mrs. Kroepel's contributions

* Mrs. Lynch

in that sphere will long outlive her thirty-seven years of service from 1923 to 1960.

Miss Annette C. Grandchamp, another member of the municipal family, has been serving the city conscientiously and well for half a century. A product of Precious Blood School and Holyoke High School, she joined City Hall as a clerk-typist while yet in her teens. The ultimate was achieved when in 1956 she was appointed Clerk of Court, a position held by but a handful of women in this Commonwealth today.

Miss Grandchamp is just the right kind of lady for the position she holds. At best, her assignments are difficult and often reflective of the sadder side of living, but the optimism, wit, and good humor of this cheerful lady are exactly what the post demands.

Miss Grandchamp has devoted her life to the smooth operation of the division with which she is associated. For that reason she is greatly respected at "City Hall". In an age when public service nationwide is being increasingly demeaned, it is to this community's credit that women of Miss Grandchamp's character and ability bring high honor and a refreshing image to public service.

Miss Grandchamp has held membership in Quota for a number of years. Her service to city government and Holyoke's civic life, generally, ranks with the best.

In passing, the writer raises a toast to all women who serve as clerks in the city's various municipal offices from those on the lowest, to those on the highest rungs of the classification ladder. These ladies are, in the estimation of those who

know their work, respected, conscientious and dedicated public servants.

Perhaps no woman deserves more sincere commendation than the wife of the Mayor of a city, especially at this point in history when the office of Mayor is more than a full-time job. The wives of Holyoke's Mayors have served this city well from Holyoke's first Room One Official, Mayor William B. C. Pearson to the present Room One occupant, Mayor William S. Taupier.

Mrs. Patricia Taupier, a pleasant, quiet and retiring lady, is an invaluable asset to her husband.



MRS. WILLIAM S. (Patricia) TAUPIER

Endowed as she is with gentle charm and pleasing grace, she has the gift for saying and doing exactly the right thing when the occasion calls for it. She is blessed, too, with a rare quality, that of being a patient listener; this attribute alone makes an ideal wife to a husband who serves in the political arena.

Though not a Holyoke native, Mrs. Taupier has an abiding interest in her adopted city. She stands ready always to serve whenever and wherever needed.

Mayor and Mrs. Taupier are the parents of five children: Alan, Anne, Kim, William Jr., and Tara.

A quote from Rousseau aptly describes Mrs. Patricia Taupier, wife of Holyoke's Mayor in this city's Centennial Year, "Her pleasures are in the happiness of her family."

Many women have served efficiently in appointive municipal offices or commissions down through the years; several of these will be mentioned in later chapters.

CHAPTER VII

WOMEN IN SOCIAL SERVICE

"He who wishes to secure the good of others, has already secured his own."

- CONFUCIUS

Holyoke was destined from its very beginnings to have its share of social problems of one kind or another. In the early days, these problems stemmed from a poor, depressed and insecure people who, uprooted from their mother countries, found themselves, temporarily at least, total strangers in a strange land. While the majority adjusted to their adopted home, there were those who needed support along the way and sad to say, there were those also who became, in a sense, unsalvageable.

As Holyoke took on more and more sophistication, other kinds of social problems began to plague the city. Severe poverty, unemployment, family disintegration, and a score of related factors made it necessary to develop new techniques to handle newly emerging problems.

In the early days there were no professional social services as such in this city. Gradually, as the field of social service was developed into a science, different agencies and professionals sought to cope with the needs of the anti-social, underprivileged, disadvantaged, and culturally deprived.

Most of the early women involved in social service were untrained. Their experience alone served as training and they grew in wisdom as their on-the-job experience increased.



MRS. KATE (Horan) MOYNIHAN

From her infancy as a city, Holyoke had wonderfully dedicated women who, through an interest in and love for humanity, were able to salvage the salvageable. One of the first of these was Kate Moynihan.

Mrs. Kate Moynihan was sister to Mrs. John (Margaret Horan) Delaney, II. The Delaney line, as indicated elsewhere (Chapter II), was one of Holyoke's earliest and most prominent of Irish descent.

Although untrained as a social worker, Kate Moynihan had a natural bent for the work. She was, before and after the turn of the century, the first woman to work with deviate women in the Holyoke Police Department. In a 1949 Special Edition of the Holyoke Transcript-Telegram, ⁽¹⁾ the following tribute was paid this devoted public servant:

(1) Ibid. page 18

“She (Kate Moynihan) did a magnificent job and had the greatest respect of the more conservative wing of the community.”

Mrs. Moynihan was a firm but kind police matron - consistent and conscientious. A woman of considerable poise and breeding, she was admired for the image she reflected wherever she traveled. She was especially respected by the women placed in her charge at the Holyoke Police Station.

In addition to serving as police matron, Kate Moynihan entered into the civic life of the community, volunteering wherever she could be of help. She was one of three women to serve as Commissioner on the Whiting Street Fund in its first years of operation. Her terms as Commissioner extended from 1907-1916, when her niece, Elizabeth Delaney succeeded her, (Chapter VIII).

In an undated newspaper clipping furnished the writer, Mrs. Moynihan's passing was eulogized in these words,

“The poor, the suffering, and the wayward of the city have lost one of their very best friends in the death of Mrs. Moynihan. Many people who have constantly to rub elbows with sin and suffering grow calloused to the individual case, but Mrs. Moynihan never lost her faith that there was some good in every human creature, some spark that if fed, and nourished would turn the bad to good.”

Mrs. Moynihan served as police matron from 1891 to 1916, a total of twenty-five years.

Mrs. Moynihan's service was so effective that an active civic-minded individual of Mrs. Moynihan's time, Harriett Towne, began a campaign to pressure “City Hall” for the appointment of a police woman. Her goal was realized with the appointment in 1917 of Holyoke's first police

woman, Mary J. McMahan. Miss McMahan was also one of the first women in the Commonwealth to have been appointed to such a post. Hers was a fortunate selection for the city, as she proved to be admirably suited to the work.

She was a graduate of Rosary High School and a member of the 1911 class of Trinity College in Washington. Before assuming the Holyoke position, she taught in the Brooklyn Public Schools and did settlement work in New York City for five years.

She came well prepared in background and training to undertake her new mission. Her greatest asset, however, was a deep interest in the salvation of wayward women. She was consumed with the desire to be of help to human beings less fortunate than she. An undated clipping of an editorial written on the occasion of her death summarized Mary McMahan's service in this way:

"Many a wayward character was diverted from a sordid life to one of clean and honest living through her (Mary McMahan's) help and influence."

Miss McMahan served as police woman until her marriage in 1921 to John Fitzgerald, Superintendent of the Municipal Gas Works. Though she no longer worked in the Police Department, she did continue volunteer work, especially in the cause of Holyoke Day Nursery.

Mrs. Fitzgerald's young life was cut short by sudden death in 1923, only a few years following a most happy marriage. The whole city mourned her loss. In the Oracle of the Transcript, the closing lines of Wordsworth's, "A Portrait", were aptly quoted at the time:

“A perfect woman, nobly planned,
To warn, comfort, and command;
And yet a spirit still and bright
With something of the angel light.”

A notable successor to other greats in the Police Department was Miss Bess Sullivan, appointed to the post of police woman in 1935. Though different in personality from Mary McMahan Fitzgerald, she was extremely effective in the various roles demanded of the changing concept of police work.

Miss Sullivan, a happy, cheerful, casual-like individual was a woman of considerable elan and sophistication. In her own way, she performed her several tasks with diligence and understanding. She was highly regarded by the women she supervised and by her peers in the Police Department as well.

Miss Sullivan brought to her work, experience as a nurse and social worker. Both helped immeasurably in the new image the position of police woman was beginning to reflect. The post had by now assumed deeper and wider dimensions. Terms as rehabilitation, probation, therapy, etc., began to be associated with the emerging role of police service here and elsewhere. Miss Sullivan coped with change and made it work.

Other police women who have served this city well include: Anna I. Burke, 1921 to 1923; Anna U. Donoghue, 1923 to 1935; Margaret Hauterman Provoda, 1952 to 1968; Eva M. O’Connell, 1970, and Mrs. Marlene Werenski, 1971; both of the latter are still on active duty. It will be noted that 1971 marks the first time in Holyoke’s history that two policewomen are serving the city concurrently.

The lot of policewomen is not easy. Their hours are long; their cases complex, and their duties variable. In the so-called Third World in which our current policewomen operate, their tasks have been multiplied and their functions broadened significantly. They deserve all the support a grateful community should extend.



MISS MARY C. TOBIN

With the development of psychology, sociology, psychiatry, etc., more and more women found satisfaction in the so-called service-oriented professions. Not the least of these was the field of social service itself.

Mary C. Tobin was at the time of her retirement the longest serving Executive Director of a Social Service agency in this city. For thirty-three years, Miss Tobin, as Executive Secretary of Holyoke Family Welfare, Inc., served that agency with a spirit of total dedication and commitment.

A graduate nurse, Holyoke Hospital 1911, Miss Tobin worked in that profession for little more than a decade before accepting the Family Welfare post. In preparation for the latter she studied at Mount Holyoke College and the New York School of Social Work.

Miss Tobin's long years with what has come to be Holyoke Family Service saw no day misspent. Hers was a full and active tenure during which she kept families together, helped the helpless, and gave encouragement to the downtrodden. It was she, too, who in 1932, initiated "The Ten Neediest Cases", a special appeal made to the public at Christmas time for support of Holyoke's ten neediest families.

Miss Tobin was an unusual person. She was, definitely, a woman who really made the difference in the lives of an untold number of Holyoke families.

A niece, Miss Frances Tobin, herself a dedicated teacher of the underprivileged, in speaking of her aunt said, "She is and has always been a quiet, reserved, and humble person, one who all her life has had a tremendous interest in people."

The writer knows Miss Tobin as a gentlelady - one of soft voice, gentle manner, and empathetic attitude. These were the qualities that helped generate feelings of acceptance and security in those who sought her help when she was active in the Social Service field. Miss Mary C. Tobin retired from Family Service in 1956.

As a charter member of Quota Club, she had chaired its Scholarship Committee for years. In her more active days, she also served on several of Quota's Committees. Miss Tobin is deserving of all the praise a grateful people can bestow.

Miss Tobin's successor Claire Fitzgerald had been with Family Service since 1931. A trained social worker, she came to the agency with an M. A. Degree from Fordham University, and a B. A. from

the College of New Rochelle. She also had some experience before assuming the Holyoke position, having served the Diocesan Bureau of Social Services in Hartford for several years.

Miss Fitzgerald was with Family Service for thirty-seven years. During that time great changes were taking place in the profile of the Holyoke community. This fine woman, as did Miss Tobin before her, met the challenge of her time with an abiding faith that society can be improved through concentrated effort.

Miss Fitzgerald retired in 1968.

Two ladies outstanding in their service to Holyoke, Miss Dorothy Norton Franz and Miss Molly Higgins, have been household words in many a home in this city for a goodly number of years.

Miss Dorothy Franz, daughter and sister, respectively, of prominent Holyoke physicians, was a person of whom it could be said, "She was a joy to know." She had, in addition to natural grace and poise, a gift for making and holding friends. She possessed, too, to a significant extent, the ability to organize, direct, and re-direct large groups, an asset to anyone working in the social service field.

Between 1940 and 1961 she was Director of Home Information Center; she also served as Assistant Director and Director of Skinner Coffee House for thirty years, approximately. According to Miss Molly Higgins, one well-acquainted with her work, Miss Franz was a major force in the development of both agencies. Dorothy Franz was held in high regard by people of different ages and different walks of life. Whether rich or poor, black or white, high or lowly, she was at home with all.

Her community involvements were many. She was a director of the M.S.P.C.C. for years, an officer in the Holyoke Women's Club, member of the Board of Directors, Y W C A , member of the Executive Committee - Home Department, Hampden County Improvement League, member of Springfield Smith College Club, Holyoke Quota Club, Holyoke Hearing League and Community Concerts, Inc. Her volunteer work for Red Cross can be matched by few either in hours of service or in quality of performance.

Miss Franz was graduated from Smith College in 1914. In 1962 she was the twenty-third recipient of the Dwight Award for distinguished service to Holyoke. That alone makes her one of Smith's most outstanding Alumnae.

Death came to Dorothy Franz in 1965. She was greatly mourned by those for whom and with whom she worked during her lifetime.

Addendum: It was Miss Franz' father, Dr. Adolph Franz, who brought this writer into the world.

Busily engaged today in service similar to that of Miss Franz is a lady beloved by all with whom she works, Miss Molly M. Higgins. She, too, has been in social service for three decades.

Miss Higgins, Holyoke native, has an impressive educational background. A Baccalaureate Degree earned from Framingham State College has been supplemented through the years with additional study at the University of New Hampshire, Colorado Agricultural and Mechanical College, and Stout Institute in Wisconsin. Today, she is Executive Director of Holyoke Home Information



MISS MOLLY HIGGINS

Center, Skinner Community House, and Agent for the Service League Foundation.

In speaking of her work, Miss Higgins states, "It is thrilling to see the accomplishments of those taking our programs, what they do . . . afterward as a result of assistance and instruction."

Miss Higgins' special focus and interest is family improvement through instruction. The type

service offered is rather all-inclusive ranging from the training of leadership involving program planning, to community meetings in family economics, child development, and human relations.

Miss Higgins holds memberships in the Holyoke Women's Club, Quota Club, and St. Francis Cabrini Circle of Holyoke Day Nursery. In 1954 she was invited to membership in Sigma Chapter, Epsilon Sigma Phi, an honorary society for Extension Service workers who completed ten years in the field. In 1953, the National Committee in Extension Home Economics recognized her for distinguished service in Extension work.

When queried about Holyoke today, Miss Higgins replied, "The city has potential for a great future. As to women in today's world", she went on, "there are many more opportunities available to women if they would become involved."

Miss Higgins, along with the other women interviewed, stressed the importance of woman's role in strengthening family life, "The role of homemaker is important," she emphasized, "for the homemaker has tremendous influence on the family."

The service rendered by Molly Higgins is having far-reaching results in Holyoke today. We salute her for outstanding effort in her chosen career.

When Miss Alice Lucey retired from United Fund, Inc., in 1972, she completed thirty-four years as its Executive Director thus spanning Miss Tobin's service with Family Welfare by but one year.

To assess with any degree of accuracy Miss Lucey's contributions to the Holyoke community is next to impossible. She accomplished so much over so long a period, something is bound to be omitted, to say nothing of the limitations of time and space imposed on the writer.

Alice K. Lucey was graduated from Holyoke High School in 1928 and Mount Holyoke College in 1932. Before assuming a position with what was the Community Chest, in 1938, she did volunteer work locally. It will be remembered that positions were hard to find in the thirties, the days of the Great Depression. Miss Lucey did, however, succeed in securing a post as social worker for the Emergency Relief Administration, and the Works Project Administration, otherwise popularly known, at the time, as ERA and WPA, respectively. She served these agencies for about four years. She forfeited work on the government-sponsored projects to serve the American Red Cross in Cincinnati, Ohio where, for a brief period, she did flood-relief work.

She accepted the call to administer the Community Chest in the summer of 1938. It was she who revitalized the Chest by reviving its drives, consolidating its agencies, and streamlining the organization itself which had reached a new low in the early days of the Depression. Her success at doing all of these chores was phenomenal. Miss Lucey worked indefatigably to make each year better than the last and she did just that.

Today United Fund Inc. serves the greater Holyoke area - Holyoke, South Hadley and Granby. Children, youth, and adults, through the several agencies United Way supports, have benefited greatly from its annual drives and allotments.

During World War II, Miss Lucey was Chairman of the Social Service Division of Holyoke's Civil Defense organizations, was active in getting USO and Nursery-Day Care Centers established, and played a major role in the establishment of the Area Mental Health Clinic. In 1950 she served on the Mid-Century Committee for Children and Youth and was named a delegate to the White House Conference on Children and Youth by Governor Paul A. Dever.

Miss Lucey has been secretary of the New England Association of Community Chests and Councils, and member of the Executive Committee of the Pioneer Valley Chapter, National Association of Social Workers. She has chaired several committees on different aspects of social service and has participated in many panel discussions here and elsewhere. For distinguished service in the field of Human Relations, Miss Lucey was the recipient of the Brotherhood Award of the Holyoke Chapter, NCCJ, in 1960.

Miss Lucey put her mind and heart into her work and Holyoke is today the better for it.

Social service work involves many different facets each one of which is a separate entity in itself, yet, each is related to the other in such a way as to make a harmonious whole. Mrs. William (Evelyn Murray) McGrath was associate- in a vein of social service different from most —the U.S.O.

In 1942, Mrs. McGrath was appointed Assistant Director of Holyoke's United Service Organization, a unit designed to set up recreation and entertainment for those serving in the military. Actually, U.S.O. in Holyoke was organized to do more than just that. Through Mrs. McGrath's efforts its scope

was expanded to include housing as well as entertainment and recreation. The programs originally intended to help the "Service-connected" in World War II were also extended to embrace the Korean and Vietnam conflicts.

Those who lived in Holyoke in World War II days will remember that Westover Air Force had hundreds of airmen and officers arriving daily, some with their families, others without. In either case, housing had to be found, and Mrs. McGrath embarked with the aid of the Transcript-Telegram, on a mission to find it, and she did. Holyoke people opened their homes and their hearts, converting attics, furnishing spare rooms, and even offering rooms vacated temporarily by their own sons, who were also off serving in other theaters of operation. When help was needed to supervise recreation programs, Mrs. McGrath carried her message to various clubs and agencies seeking help from all able to respond. Her search, fabulously successful, brought offers from women's clubs, church groups, the Junior League and others to staff the War Memorial on a volunteer basis so that the military, especially the unmarried military personnel, might have a place to go for entertainment, recreation, and a snack.

The writer remembers having volunteered of many an evening with groups from Quota to serve as hostess at the snack bar. On each occasion Quotarians made sandwiches by the hundreds, as well as small cakes, cookies, and other goodies. What Quota did was repeated over and over by other service clubs and agencies.

A Junior Service Corps comprised of 1000 young women, carefully screened, was signed up

for hostessing and dancing. USO service culminated in many a romance and marriage for the young who volunteered their free hours in behalf of our service-connected personnel.

Mrs. McGrath was finally persuaded by the Commanding Officer at Westover to assume the directorship of a similar program at Westover Base. In her new post she became "Mom" to thousands of men at Westover. In 1968, at the age of 70, Mrs. McGrath retired.

Holyoke's pouring out of love to Westover Servicemen in World War II has seen nothing like it before or since. At this period in history perhaps we all can ponder the Latin proverb, "Omnia vincit amor", "Love conquers all." As for Mrs. McGrath's service to U.S.O., thousands of airmen will never forget the woman they called "Mom" in their home away from home.

Executive Directors of Holyoke YWCA have led that organization with a devotion and spirit unexcelled throughout these one hundred years. Eloise H. Beynon, present Executive Secretary of the Young Women's Christian Association and wife of the late Rev. Lee J. Beynon, is doing excellent work with and for young ladies enrolled in the Y's various programs.

Mrs. Beynon has a delightful personality and a kind of decent humility that enhances her interaction with administrators in other agencies. Mrs. Beynon has visited the writer's office on several occasions to solicit cooperation on one project or another for "her girls". Because of her sincerity and zeal, her requests are usually honored by those who have it within their power to say, "Yes."

Living as she does daily, the Christian spirit, Mrs. Beynon is respected by her "young ladies" and by her peers. (More about the YWCA in Chapter XII.)

Other Executive Secretaries who served with unstinting dedication include: Miss Elizabeth Price, Mrs. Virginia Dobbs, Mrs. Robert Carolyn Berkey, and Mrs. Alfred Winham.

Children's Services, Inc., has had many excellent leaders throughout its history in Holyoke. Miss Myra Silverthorne, one of its most distinguished, joined the staff in 1955. Under her directorship and guidance, the agency's programs were revitalized and expanded to the extent that there are few today who do not know such a service does exist in the Holyoke community.

She came to this city at a good time in her career for she brought to Holyoke a broad background of experience as social worker that encompassed work with the American Red Cross during World War II, followed by service with the Children's Friends Society of Providence, Rhode Island, a last stop before undertaking duties here.

From her first days in Holyoke Miss Silverthorne proved to be a conscientious and indefatigable worker. A woman of depth and sensitivity, she was quick to assess the city's needs and immediately set her goals in terms of them. Her dedication in behalf of adoptions and foster home placement has earned for her the title of "Miss Adoption". She is today Supervisor of that special division of Children's Services.

Miss Silverthorne holds a Baccalaureate Degree from Boston University and a Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of

North Carolina. She is a member of the Academy of Certified Social Workers and is active in the Adoption, Foster Care, and Unmarried Parent Program. In 1971, Miss Silverthorne was the recipient of the John B. Whiteman Award for outstanding performance in work done by her over and beyond regular duties.

Holyoke is fortunate to have a woman of her stature serving the Holyoke Branch of Children's Services, Incorporated.

The wives of our Ministers and Rabbis deserve a special word of praise for the untold countless hours of service they have rendered or are rendering the Holyoke community. To list all names would be impossible. Suffice it to say that this writer has found those who serve today to be genuinely interested in Holyoke and to have supported cultural, educational, and social service projects with a willingness and enthusiasm second to no other group.

In a special edition of the Transcript-Telegram 1949, Mrs. Dwight spoke of our women in churches at that time in this vein:

"The service that women have done in the church life of Holyoke would cover all the pages of this edition. . . . They have gone from all of our churches into foreign mission fields. They still do the homework of the parish life which brings the churches close to the people."⁽²⁾

What was said then could be repeated even more strongly at this point in history. Society's problems and needs are so much greater that demands on Ministers' and Rabbis' wives have increased almost astronomically. Because the women

(2) Special Anniversary Edition of the Transcript-Telegram
Women Leaders of Holyoke 1948-49. P. 18

of this era must extend themselves far beyond what was demanded of these wives in past generations, we salute them by name for what they are doing for Holyoke in this, the city's Historic One Hundredth: Mrs. James (Ruth) Anilosky; Mrs. Oliver (Bonita) Black; Mrs. David E. (Barbara) Evans; Mrs. I. Gordon (Estelle) Ferguson; Mrs. Artice (Lucille) Hobbs; Major Ruth Goodliff; Mrs. Daniel (Rhea) Jezer; Mrs. Edward (Eliette) Johnston; Mrs. Walter (Dorothy) Menzel; Mrs. John (Susan) Scavo; Mrs. Sender (Chava) Shizgal; Major Mary Jane TenEwck; Mrs. Carrol (Eula) Turner; Mrs. Robert (Faye) Villani and Mrs. Harry (Tula) Vulopas.



MARY J. McMAHON, Holyoke's First
Policewoman

CHAPTER VIII

VOLUNTEERS

"We live in a world which is full of misery and ignorance, and the plain duty of each . . . is to try to make the little corner he can influence somewhat less miserable, and somewhat less ignorant than it was before he entered it."

- THOMAS H. HUXLEY

Volunteerism is a grand American tradition. In Holyoke, from its toddling infancy to its fugitive present, there have been those who expended time, talent, and influence to make the dark corners of life just a little brighter than they otherwise might have been. Some women have lighted so many candles along the way that they deserve special recognition this Centennial Year.

Earliest volunteer women devoted a large share of their energies to raise the level of community living. They served, uncompensated financially, on boards of public and private agencies, and they exerted leadership to get those things changed sorely in need of changing. They were the project designers and the fund raisers, the sponsors and the supporters, the initiators and the implementors, who toiled to improve the lot of things as they were.

There were always those concerned for the good of society from women of wealth to those of moderate means and less. In the early stages of the city's development, as indicated elsewhere, the Skinners, Whitings, Dwights, Metcalfs, Tafts. Townes, Delaneys and others moved individually, in Committees, or in social groups of one kind or another to alleviate the plight of the poor or to get community betterment projects under way.

In 1891, a group of women interested in Holyoke Hospital and calling themselves the Visiting Committee, engineered project after project to help the hospital itself and to insure adequate health care for the needy. The list of these pioneer volunteers is impressive. It contains the names of women from Holyoke's oldest families: Mesdames E. P. Bagg, J. L. Burlingame, J. E. Clark, J. Cowan, O. Ely, C. H. Heywood, F. D. Heywood, C. S. Hemingway, J. L. Hodge, W. S. Loomis, T. Merrick, J. Metcalf, J. H. Newton, M. Newton, J. Ramage, C. W. Rantlet, G. G. Reed, R. H. Seymour, A. Smith, P. A. Streeter, E. C. Taft, G. N. Tyner, J. C. Welwood, and W. Whiting. The Visiting Committee, incidentally, was a fore-runner of today's Holyoke Hospital Aid Association.

The Boys' Club and the YWCA had many supporters from the very days of their founding. Mrs. William Thwing and Mrs. Edward D. Lamb, volunteered years of service in fund raising to meet the special needs of Boys' Club. Mrs. Louis Clarke, Mrs. Timothy F. Fowler, and Mrs. Henry E. Russell, nee Susan Newton, spent considerable effort promoting the programs and projects of the YWCA. Mrs. Russell, particularly, was a woman ever ready to offer service, wherever needed. She it was who exerted leadership in guiding the course of Skinner Coffee House during the first years of operation. She served also as first president of YWCA and had the honor of continuing on its Board for a goodly number of years.

Mrs. James O'Connor, whose husband was an early Mayor of Holyoke, was another who responded to innumerable calls for charity. A warm-hearted and generous woman, she rarely turned down a plea for help.

Elizabeth Delaney, of the prominent Delaney line, served on the Whiting Street Fund Commission for a number of years. She was Mrs. Kate Moynihan's niece, and replaced her on the Commission in 1917. A woman of great personal magnetism, she was admirably suited to serve as an administrator of Whiting Street Fund. She had a deep concern for the poor and needy and was liberal in her judgments.

From its beginnings, women worked for and with Girl Scouts as volunteers. Mrs. John M. James, one of the founders of Girl Scouts in Holyoke, was also the organization's first Commissioner. She had a remarkable record as a volunteer. Minnie R. Dwight, an admirer of Mrs. James' work, wrote of her in the Holyoke Transcript-Telegram:

“ . . . for years she kept Girl Scouts going in a big way. One of the secrets of her Girl Scouting, was her personal interest in the Scouts. She knew most of them by name and watched them go along into fine places in life.” (1)

Mrs. James extended her efforts in other fields as well. She was a frequent visitor at the City Home, where she made holidays glow for the poor and elderly who were housed there. Records show that she sought help for the Home from the Westminster Club, noted for its service to the underprivileged. She succeeded in getting these women to provide a Christmas tree and gifts for City Home each holiday season.

Another who has devoted a lifetime to Scouting was Mrs. Joseph C. (Hart-Lester H.) Allen. She did not come to the Holyoke community until 1932. Born in Springfield, she received her early

(1) TT Special Edition 1949, p. 18.

education in the schools of that city and was graduated in 1913 from Smith College.

Mrs. Allen is a motherly women with a sincere interest in children and youth. She is a generous woman, too, not only one to donate time but also money to any cause she espouses. Those who worked with her in "Scouts" speak in glowing terms of the genuine concern she has always demonstrated in behalf of Girl Scouts and Scouting. She has spent, according to her own computation, fifty-five years as a volunteer in that organization and was a former Scout Commissioner as was Mrs. James before her.

Her community involvement encompasses a wide area of endeavor. She is an Honorary Member of Loomis House, former member of D.A.R., Charter Member of Wistariahurst, and was First Chairman of the Home Service Corps of American National Red Cross. During World War II Mrs. Allen set up a "prisoner of war program" for the American Red Corss.

Her philosophy of life, Mrs. Allen offered, is to help other people. When not engaged in fulfilling her life goal, she hooks rugs, does needlepoint or other handwork.

Mrs. Allen is as keen today as she was in the spring of her living. She is still concerned for the Holyoke community, where it is at this point in time, and the direction in which it is going. She looks to the best in tradition and the best of our youth to shape the city's future destiny.

As the twentieth century unfolded, the number of individuals and groups dedicated to volunteer work increased considerably. In addition to those

already mentioned, still other innovators began to appear on the changing scene.

Mrs. Frances Frederick, a Chicagoan who came to Holyoke to live in the early years of the century, became seriously concerned with the plight of underprivileged children in certain sections of the city. Before her marriage and after, she had been connected with Chicago's Cook County Probation Services. She was also knowledgeable about the exciting work of Jane Addams at Hull House. After assessing problems she encountered in Holyoke, she went to work to try to put into practice what she had learned from the Chicago experience. For twenty years she went in and out of homes in behalf of needy children in depressed areas.

Mrs. Frederick's greatest contribution was the founding of Walnut Street Settlement, which she succeeded in staffing with volunteers from the city's several service clubs. The following quote indicates something of the contribution of Walnut Street Settlement to certain areas and families in the Ward IV section:

"On Walnut Street, she brought beauty to a people who loved beauty by helping them to turn a dump ground of vacant lots into beautiful gardens."⁽²⁾

Mrs. Frederick was the first woman to become the recipient of the Dwight Award for outstanding service to the Holyoke Community.

Holyoke has had a fine coterie of women volunteers interested in improving the lot of women. Even before the turn of the century, the struggle for women's rights was supported by some of the community's most prominent ladies. Miss

2. Op. Cit., pg. 18

Angeline Worswick, Mrs. Judge Sherman, Mrs. Charles E. Ball, Mrs. Edward G. Whiting, Mrs. Edwina A. Whiting, Mrs. J. C. Lewis, Mrs. Jane Ordway, and Mrs. Bessie Wilde Blodgett comprised the first line of leaders in Holyoke's initial struggle.

The second line of women to reinforce the earlier group included Mrs. J. B. Weis, Mrs. William G. Dwight, Mrs. Elizabeth Towne, Mrs. William S. Loomis, Mrs. Frank Holyoke, Miss Katherine Shine, Mrs. Arthur B. Chapin and Mrs. Robert Newcombe. A strong, co-militant leader of the Holyoke women was Mary E. Woolley, President of Mount Holyoke College.

The most aggressive in the second group - Mrs. Dwight, Mrs. Towne, and Mrs. Loomis - even paraded in Chicago for the cause of Women's Suffrage. Mrs. Dwight recounts that incident as follows:

“ . . . Mrs. Towne, with Mrs. William S. Loomis and Mrs. Dwight, paraded in Chicago the year both parties wrote planks (on suffrage) in their platform and stormed the Republican National Convention to win their way to the party platform.” (3)

The effort the women put into their cause was terrific. Some went to national meetings held in various sections of the country. Others, as Mrs. Towne, were said to have stood on Holyoke's street corners trying to interest citizens in the campaign for women's right to vote.

In another vein, women volunteer leaders organized Holyoke's first clubs. The purposes for their establishment fell into several categories, but the objectives were mainly to raise cultural levels of individuals, to provide specific services, or to

3. Op. Cit., pg. 18

promote community interests. Most of these organizations will be treated in Chapter XII. Some of the women predominantly active in their founding are mentioned, in passing, in this section. They include: Mrs. Clement Herschel (Tuesday Club), Mrs. Minnie R. Dwight, Mrs. Annie Sinclair, Mrs. Walter Hatch, and Mrs. Frank Holyoke (Holyoke Women's Club); Miss Marjorie Green, and Miss Helen Cray (Business and Professional Women's Club); Mrs. Joseph Towne (Council on World Relations); Mrs. Jacob L. Barowsky (Jewish Women's Community Council); Mrs. Constance Kelton Goss, Mrs. William (Dorothy) Dwight, Mrs. Katherine Alderman, Mrs. Adelaide Avery Button, Mrs. Joseph Prescott, and Mrs. Marie Weis Hazen (Junior Service Corps, forerunner of the Holyoke Junior League, Inc.), Mrs. William G. Dwight, and Mrs. L. Arthur Williston, prime movers in the establishment of Holyoke Quota Club, and Dr. M. R. Kelly (co-founder, with several prominent men, of the Holyoke Chapter, National Conference of Christians and Jews).

Holyoke has had its share, too, of volunteers in church work. One of the most remarkable in this area was Amy Butler Robinson, wife of the Rev. Dr. Edwin Robinson, who came to Holyoke in 1902 to serve Grace Church. Dr. Robinson went on serving for fifty years. It was the longest pastorate in the city's history. The writer remembers Mrs. Robinson well. She was a tall, dignified, impressive-looking woman, endowed with unusual charm and grace. In her later years, silver-white hair, simply worn, gave her a kind of classic look, enhancing her finely chiseled features.

Mrs. Robinson's work was in a depressed area the Ward II section of the City. Though she had

the look of a patrician, she related well to all kinds of people. That fact, coupled with other traits, appealed to the parishioners and others. Only superlatives can express with any degree of significance the contributions made by Mrs. Robinson to the children and youth of Grace Church Parish. She it was who organized the Sunday School, reorganized the Women's Guild, and taught the Bradford Fraternity - a class organized in memory of an only son, Bradford Clark Robinson, who had died while a student at Amherst College. She organized a Mothers' Club in 1945 and frequently took charge of the morning service at her own and other churches. The significant fact is not so much that she did any of these things; it is that for a half century she did them so beautifully. Her enthusiasm never waned and her popularity never diminished.

Few Holyokers know that it was Amy Butler Robinson who introduced the great Dr. Albert Schweitzer to the Connecticut Valley, or that Mrs. Schweitzer spoke at Grace Church at one time. Mrs. Robinson herself was a lecturer of note. Certain of her prepared talks - "History and Symbolism of the Cross", the "Folger Shakespeare Library", "Edward Arlington Robinson", and "Robert Frost" - were delivered, on request, in several churches in Holyoke and elsewhere. It is said that Robert Frost, in 1934, gave readings and interpretations of his own poetry before the Thursday Club in tribute to Mrs. Robinson.

On the death of Rev. Dr. Robinson in 1952, only a few short months after his retirement, Mrs. Robinson went to live with her daughter, the Rev. Dorothy Robinson Stoddard in South Hadley. Amy

Butler Robinson passed to her eternal reward in 1962.

The writer, in her younger days, addressed on different occasions the Men's Club and the Women's Guild of Grace Church. Mrs. Robinson always greeted her enthusiastically and made her visit a delight to remember.

A quotation from Saadi, a Persian poet, seems apt, "A Handsome woman is a jewel; a good woman is a treasure." Amy Butler Robinson was both.

Mrs. Louise Dodd Towne, founder of the Council on World Relations and widow of Joseph M. Towne, former president of the National Blank Book Company, was another whose concerns for a better Holyoke led to a lifetime of service in this community. Mrs. Towne came to Holyoke shortly after her marriage in 1913. Her interest in the welfare of her adopted city was immediate and lasting.

The writer recalls Mrs. Towne as a woman of versatile abilities, staunch spirit, and serene disposition. She was one who did things easily and well. Nothing seemed too difficult to attempt, and no task too small or too big to undertake.

Working together as they did, Mr. and Mrs. Towne formed a most remarkable team. Both were interested in the social and civic life of the community. He it was who founded the Community Welfare League, precursor of the Community Chest. Mr. Towne served as president from 1922 to 1927 and chaired four different drives during his lifetime. Mrs. Towne, an enthusiastic supporter of the League, worked alongside her husband to help

make the venture the gigantic success it eventually became.

It should be mentioned in passing that the Townes were most generous people. Their financial contributions to churches, clubs and welfare agencies are a matter of record.

Mrs. Towne's leadership ability was demonstrated in offices held in the several groups with which she identified during her lifetime. In 1930, she was president of Holyoke's YWCA Board, and served on the Y's National Board as well. She was president also of Holyoke's Council on World Relations which she founded in 1922. In its day, the latter group was extremely active listing among its membership some of the best minds in the city. Both a study and action Council, it had special appeal for those interested in history and the social sciences.

In 1951, Mrs. Towne became president of the Delphians, a high-type cultural group. She was also an active member of the Thursday Club, a literary oriented group, a strong supporter of Holyoke Women's Club, and a conscientious worker for Second Congregational Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Towne were parents of two sons: William Brewster Towne, and Robertson Hodges Towne.

The lineage of this splendid family is rooted in the earliest beginnings of historic New England. The Holyoke-connected branch, a credit to its forebears, has left an indelible mark on the cultural and civic life of Holyoke.

Volunteerism, as mentioned hitherto, is traditional with the American people, no less our

Holyoke citizens. Women in this city have moved, from the beginning, in several different directions for the sheer joy of helping wherever they could best serve. Two women, contemporaries in their own era - Mrs. Frank (Rhena Mosher) Holyoke and Mrs. Nathan (Katherine B. Van Valkenburgh) Avery were exceptionally active in civic, church, social, and cultural organizations.

Mrs. Avery, whose husband was Mayor of Holyoke, and a member of the Holyoke School Committee for twenty-five years, was one of this city's finest. She had a special talent for organizing women for community service, and this she did throughout a long and fruitful life. Mrs. Avery came to Holyoke about 1879. She entered directly into the life of the city, attending meetings, joining clubs, and interesting herself in church work. She related extremely well to people. It was said of her that she made friends in all sections of the city, and that she was a broadminded woman in a day when narrow-mindedness was widespread.

Space will permit reference to but a few of the many projects with which she was identified. As Chairman of the Community Service Project of Holyoke Women's Club, she played a leading role in "City Beautiful", sponsored by the Holyoke Chamber of Commerce. She was one of the early ecologists, before the term itself became a household word. She and her women's groups worked assiduously in cooperation with the Chamber to achieve the removal of unsightly billboards, vacant buildings, and unsafe tenements.

In 1917 Mrs. Avery was made Chairman of the Committee on National Defense. She organized

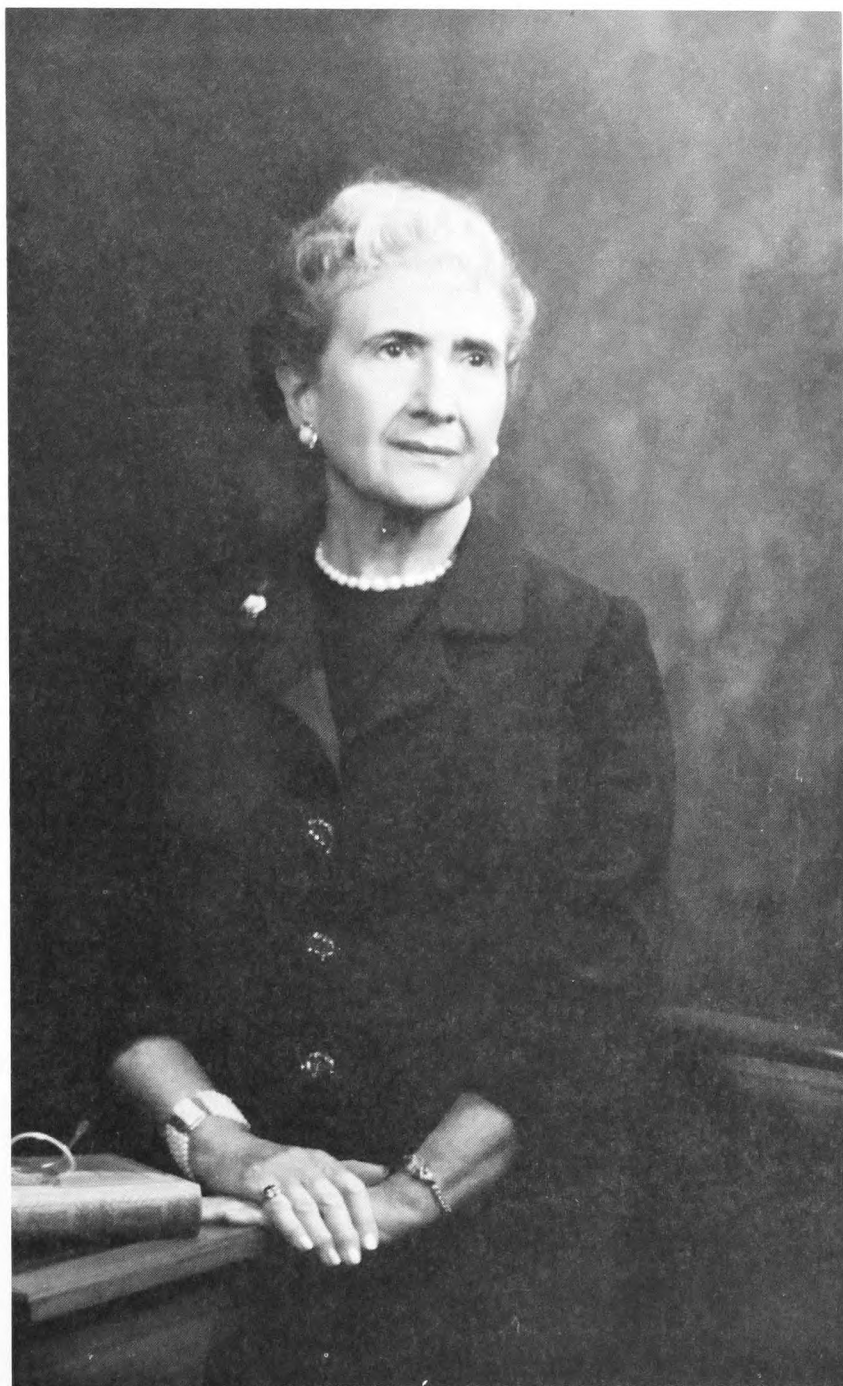
Women's groups in all seven Wards, working conscientiously in an effort to implement every regulation of the local office. A zealot for action, Mrs. Avery proved an indefatigable associate in the causes she supported. In 1921 she was Vice-President of the Chamber of Commerce, and served as Acting President that same year. She was a member of the Hospital Aid Board for years, member and President of Qui Vive Literary Club, and a long-time Board Member of Holyoke Day Nursery.

Despite the time Mrs. Avery devoted to civic and social activities, she gave unstintingly to Second Congregational Church, of which she was a devoted member. She taught the Women's Bible Study Class at the Church, where her leadership was sought, acclaimed, and appreciated over a goodly number of years.

Before coming to Holyoke, Mrs. Avery was a graduate of Yates Academy and Miss Graham's Finishing School, both in New York State. She was one who continued to improve herself all the days of her life.

When the writer became interested in establishing a Chapter of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, she went to Mesdames Minnie R. Dwight, Katherine Avery, and Rhena Holyoke for advice and counsel. She remembers with gratitude the help she received and the encouragement tendered by these three women. She recollects also Mrs. Avery's words at the time, "You will have a hard row to hoe, but anything worth doing at all is never easy."

Mrs. Avery's death in 1959 at the age of eighty-three left a great void in Holyoke's woman power.



MRS. JACOB L. (Adeline) BAROWSKY

Two daughters were born to Mr. and Mrs. Avery, Adelaide and Katherine. Adelaide, Mrs. Frank Button followed in her parents' footsteps. Daughter Katherine, now Mrs. Carl Allen, lives in North Muskegon, Michigan.

Mrs. Rhena Mosher Holyoke was the wife of Dr. Frank Holyoke, prominent Holyoke physician. She came to this city, as did Mrs. Avery, just prior to the turn of the century. Both were exceptionally good friends throughout their lives.

Mrs. Holyoke concentrated her service in four areas: Holyoke Women's Club, which she, along with Mrs. Minnie R. Dwight and Mrs. Walter Hatch had been instrumental in founding; Women's Christian Temperance Union (W.C.T.U.), in which she was an influential worker; Holyoke's Home for the Aged (now Loomis House), which she supported with enormous enthusiasm; finally, as indicated elsewhere, the Women's Suffrage movement, which she supported openly and actively.

One of but a small number of women who were college trained at her period in history, she brought to other women the knowledge and skill needed to move Women's Suffrage along. She was graduated from Mount Holyoke with a B.A. in 1894 and remained closely affiliated with the Alumnae until her death in 1967. She was corresponding secretary of her class for many years and was, at the time of her death at the age of ninety-five, one of Mount Holyoke's oldest alumnae.

Adeline M. Barowsky, whose husband was Jacob Barowsky, Harvard graduate and a remarkably successful Holyoke businessman,

came to Holyoke following her marriage in 1916. Both Mr. and Mrs. Barowsky have been totally committed to the Holyoke community. Together they built a small business into a giant corporation. In doing this, they never forgot the needs of Holyoke or its people as they progressed along the way.

Mrs. Barowsky, a gentle, cultured, intelligent lady, is a delight to meet. Possessing as she does a warm, effluent, and engaging personality, people feel comfortable in her presence. Despite the wealth at her disposal, she lives simply and unostentatiously, but ever in the best of taste. Mr. Barowsky and she have travelled widely in more recent years. Theirs is a wonderful life together, and the best part of it has been their willingness to share their good fortunes with others. When travelling here or there they invariably send family and friends lengthy, homey, colorful travelogues describing in detail interesting places visited.

In speaking of their success in industry Mrs. Barowsky remarked, "Since my husband and I have been financially successful, we feel an obligation to the society that made this possible."

Through the evolving years Mrs. Barowsky has more than fulfilled any obligation she felt to the Holyoke community. At various times she has chaired Red Cross Drives, Community Concerts, Inc., and served as Board Member, Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. She is a member of the Holyoke Women's Club, Holyoke Chapter NCCJ, and past member of Jewish Women's Community Council. She founded YWHA, forerunner of Jewish Women's Community Council, and was its first president. As Chairman of the Women's Division, United Jewish Appeal,



MRS. JAMES (Clare E. Sheehan) DOWD

and Chairman of Women's Division, Israel Bond Drive, she was instrumental in raising thousands of dollars for both causes. She has chaired, too, Western Massachusetts Nursing Home Drives for many years.

Several meetings of the founding committee of the Holyoke Chapter NCCJ, of which her husband was a member, were held at the Barowsky home. Mrs. Barowsky's graciousness as a hostess and the warmth of her personality made the affairs memorable occasions.

In musing on Holyoke, Mrs. Barowsky remarked, "I have seen Holyoke grow industrially in the fifty-six years since I came to the city, but I have also seen it decline and its population dwindle. I am very hopeful, however, that Holyoke will have a new lease on life and again become a very important community." The Barowskys feel a deep love and concern for Holyoke. They have, because of this, always extended themselves in the city's behalf. Their charities to individuals and groups have far exceeded any debt they may feel they owe the city of their adoption.

Of three children born to Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Barowsky, one - Seymour, an only son, died in early manhood; two daughters - Mrs. Isaac (Edith L.) Eskenasy and Mrs. Aaron (Lenore) Kingsberg, Holyokers both - are contributing today, as their parents before them, to the city's growth and development.

In passing, a special tribute is paid Edith and Isaac Eskenasy for their thoughtfulness at Seder time. The writer has been one of the guests invited to their home to partake of the Seder meal, thus to gain a better understanding of this particular ritual

of the Judean frame of reference. The Eskenasys have been inviting different guests to this traditional service for a number of years. A generous and lovely gesture!

Mrs. James (Clare E. Sheehan) Dowd, whose husband James Dowd was prominent in the insurance business in this city, and whose sons continue the business today, came to Holyoke in 1921 following her marriage. An outstanding Catholic laywoman, she has toiled interminably to raise the level of Christian reading and to disseminate knowledge applicable to the best in Christian life.

She, along with Miss Katherine Greeley, founded the Catholic Lending Library, now the Open Window Book Shop. In connection with the Book Shop, she spearheaded, fifteen years ago, the action which resulted in the inauguration of a Lecture Series and Book Fair. The latter event, an annual affair, is generally quite well attended. Selected authors of the latest books featured in the Bookshop are brought to Holyoke for the lectures. The Book Fair is one of the finer cultural efforts held in this city each year.

Born in Easthampton, Mrs. Dowd's early education was received in that town. Her secondary and college were acquired, respectively, at St. Mary's Academy in New Haven, Connecticut and New Rochelle College in New York. She has been an active and conscientious member of the latter's Alumnae Association.

From the College of New Rochelle, Mrs. Dowd was the recipient of the Angela Merici Award for dedication to college, church, and city. For devotion to the College Alumnae she was the recipient of the New Rochelle Ursula Laurus Award.

Mrs. Dowd has served church and community well. She was the first president of Holy Cross Council of Catholic Women, president of Catholic Library Association and Catholic College Alumnae, president and secretary of the Women's Club, and Secretary of Red Cross.

Mrs. Dowd, in speaking of her role in life explained, "I am greatly blessed with family and work and am grateful God set me on the paths I follow." She spoke also of a deeply spiritual dependence on the Almighty, and the blessings bestowed on her through Him.

With respect to thoughts on Holyoke, Mrs. Dowd was of the opinion that there was a spirit of ecumenism in Holyoke in advance of the movement itself, and that this city's people have had an unusual awareness of and respect for different racial and religious groups in more recent years.

On women in today's world, she offered, "Because of emphasis on the wrong aspects of womanhood, I believe that women are losing a great deal of what they gained." Mrs. Dowd is a woman of great faith. It is this faith which is at the root of all her good works.

Clare Dowd and the late James Dowd are the parents of six children: James and John, Claire (Mrs. Edward Hayes), Ann (Mrs. Philip Connolly), Mary, and Elizabeth. The latter two are now Sisters Mary, and Elizabeth respectively, of the Ursuline Order.

Most volunteers are well-rounded personalities. In reviewing data on those included in this volume, it was learned that they are usually housewives and home-workers who like or enjoy such hobbies as knitting, painting, needlepoint,

puzzles, flower arranging, gardening, arts and crafts, or skiing.

Mrs. Hortense Alderman Cooke, whose husband is Donald P. Cooke, not only enjoys several hobbies, but she is intensely interested in people. It is this consuming concern that has led her into all kinds of volunteer work in the Greater Holyoke community.

An acquaintance, in speaking of Mrs. Cooke's innumerable contributions to worthy causes, has said of her, "She is a wonder. It's incredible how many different things Mrs. Cooke can do at one and the same time, and do all of them well."

There is probably not a drive or worthy cause with which Mrs. Cooke has not been connected. Over the years, United Fund, Red Cross, Mental Health, Hospital Aid Association - all have felt the impact of her unlimited service. She was president of the Holyoke Hospital Aid Association at a time when there was an explosion of interest in health care. As a result, many innovations in procedures were initiated, and Mrs. Cooke was there. She served, too, as first president of the Holyoke-Chicopee Mental Health and Retardation Board - an organization charged with broad tasks in the area of Mental Health and Retardation.

In 1964 Mrs. Cooke was the recipient of the William G. Dwight Award for Distinguished Service to the Holyoke Community. This is a coveted prize won by comparatively few women.

"To keep busy - to use my time and efforts most effectively," is Mrs. Cooke's life goal.

Hortense Cooke, as other women contemporaries, feels a deep concern for Holyoke. Our

task, she believes, is to reawaken the spirit that prevailed in Holyoke during the city's developmental years.

It has been said that one can preach a better sermon with his life than with his lips. Mrs. Cooke has lived the kind of life worthy to be called an excellent sermon.

Whenever Holyoke's original Child Guidance Clinic comes to mind so also do volunteers connected with its founding - the people who served its successive Boards of Directors. Some of these individuals have been mentioned in other Chapters. One who devoted many hours to the Child Guidance Clinic and other worthy projects was Alice N. Childs, whose husband, Benjamin Childs, is one of this city's most respected merchants.

Mrs. Childs, a native of Holyoke, was educated in the public schools of the city and holds a Baccalaureate Degree from Vassar. She has had the training and background to exert leadership, and this she has never failed to do when assistance has been sought. Her greatest contribution to human welfare has been through the Junior League. The League it was that spearheaded the establishment of the Child Guidance Clinic. As Projects Chairman of the League, Mrs. Childs was instrumental not only in promoting the Guidance Clinic, but also in initiating the Dental Health Clinic at Holyoke Hospital. She served too, on many other League projects too numerous to mention. She could always be counted upon to support United Fund, Red Cross, and Holyoke Hospital Aid Association.

Mrs. Childs, never one to wear honors on her sleeve, has the knack of doing what has to be done easily and almost unobtrusively. She seems to have



MRS. BENJAMIN (Alice) CHILDS

a calming influence when calm is needed. Probably the reason why she has been so successful in her volunteer work is the fact that she does not take an inflexible stand or an intolerant attitude toward the agencies or organizations to which she relates. This attitude toward people and institutions has definitely proved an asset. It is a lesson some innovators should try to learn.

Mrs. Childs, a homemaker and mother, has impressed the writer as a compelling woman who projects that quality of inner strength that makes for happy family living. She supports that opinion, somewhat, in a partial quote from her statement on women in today's world. "I see no reason why a woman cannot take a great deal of pride in being a good housewife and mother."

With the understanding Mrs. Childs usually brings to a topic with many sides, she was equally quick to remark, "I certainly believe in equal rights for women and by degrees we are getting there."

In speaking of our country today, she offered, "This is still a young country and we have much to learn. I am always an optimist despite drugs, crime,

poverty and racism. I still believe in our country and am sure it will survive its growing pains.”

Mr. and Mrs. Childs are the parents of three children:

Susan (Mrs. Frank) Merrick of Summit, N.J., Catherine (Mrs. Gordon) Jones of Boston and Miss Eliza Prescott Childs also of Boston.

Virginia Boley Barrett (Mrs. Frederick P.) - wife, mother, grandmother and volunteer - is another who has had a magnificent record of service in this community. A native of New York City, Mrs. Barrett came to Holyoke in 1921. Early education was in the Holyoke Public Schools; secondary, at Northampton School for Girls; post high school, at Smith College.

Keeping a happy home, meeting people, getting to know them, and enjoying associations are the chief interests in Mrs. Barrett's life. Beyond these, she swims, golfs, does gourmet cooking, and works at needlepoint as hobbies. “My main goal in life”, Mrs. Barrett explained, “is to enjoy whatever I am doing and to be enthusiastic about whatever my involvements happen to be.” Her involvements are many. Mrs. Barrett is a member of the Holyoke Hospital Board of Directors and Holyoke Hospital Executive Committee. She was a corporator of Junior League of Holyoke, Inc., 1945, and a corporator of Springfield Technical College when that institution was established.

Intense interest in Urban Renewal led to Mrs. Barrett's appointment to the Holyoke Redevelopment Authority in 1958. That event marked a milestone for Mrs. Barrett in that she became the first woman of the original Commissioners to serve the HRA. Attesting to the variety of her in-

volvements are the offices she has held in the several groups with which she has been identified. She was President, Holyoke Junior League 1955-57; President, Holyoke Hospital Aid Association, 1961-1963; Chairman, Advance Gifts, United Fund, 1964; Section Chairman, Holyoke Hospital Drive, 1964; Chairman, Western Mass. Council of Hospital Auxiliaries, 1966-1967. Presently, Mrs. Barrett is a member of Holyoke's Centennial Advisory Committee.

"I am sure the future for Holyoke will be bright", Mrs. Barrett predicted. "We are in a beautiful area and should encourage our citizens to appreciate and enjoy our natural resources."

Mrs. Barrett admires women in today's world. It is her belief that women are more knowledgeable politically and civically than ever before. As one who has served many years as a member of the Ward Seven Republican Committee, she is herself an intelligent and well-informed individual.

Mr. Barrett is president of Nonotuck Manufacturing Company. The Barretts have two daughters, Laurie and Cynthia, and one son, Richard.

Mrs. Russell (Edith Scott) Magna, a woman of tremendous personality and drive, brought national and international fame and honor to the Holyoke community through outstanding service to humanity. Hers was a rich, radiant, and remarkable life spent sowing seeds for good in the grand, expansive, and meaningful manner.

She was, as the writer remembers her, a small woman, slight of frame and short of stature. No more than five feet-two inches tall, it was amazing she did so much so well over so many years.

Mrs. Magna, a graduate of Smith College, class of 1909, married Russell Magna, owner and operator of Holyoke's Buick Agency located long years at the corner of Dwight and Northampton Streets. Mrs. Magna's life was devoted to her father, her husband, and as someone put it, people and projects.

She was one to travel extensively. Though she enjoyed it as a recreatory outlet, she also looked upon it as a serious study of people and places. In her own words she expressed something of what it meant to her:

"Letting the spaces widen far
Viewing the old world and the new
Learning to know them as they are." (4)

Mrs. Magna was a sophisticate, but her sophistication never impaired a warm and generous heart. What she learned from the world about people she used to help its people.

Ability to get women, and men too, to work for a cause was her greatest asset. She was known to have spearheaded drives in amounts from thousands to millions, and achieve her goal. She is claimed to have raised \$106,000 in War Bonds through appeal to Massachusetts D.A.R. during World War I. She raised a million dollars for Constitution Hall, and thousands of dollars for Northampton School for the Deaf. Her inspiring force knew no bounds.

A quote from Smith College Quarterly (5) indicated something of the magnitude of Mrs. Magna's efforts:

4. Magna, E. Scott. *We Travel Together*. 1925

5. Quarterly Magazine, Smith College Feb. 1957

“Edith (Scott) Magna, heading the development program of the Clarke School for the Deaf, secured nearly half a million for the School this year. ‘I had an offer from a New York Foundation of a quarter million and from Kresge of \$25,000 provided I raised \$375,000. They gave me until Dec. 31, ’57 to get it, but happily, within three months of the offer, I met their conditions. The Kresge check came yesterday. My total is \$540,803.’ Edith gave the Commencement Address at the School in June.”

Mrs. Magna was Regent of Mercy Warren Chapter, DAR and became, eventually, President-General of the national DAR. Constitution Hall, Washington, D.C., the national headquarters for Daughters of the American Revolution, is a tribute to Mrs. Magna’s efforts.

As one sensitive to tradition and the value of one’s heritage, she it was who exerted efforts to preserve Holyoke’s old Tavern originally located on the corner of Dwight Street and Easthampton Road. In her own inimitable way, Mrs. Magna, found the money to move it when she learned it would be torn down to widen a highway.

She was, during her lifetime, the recipient of many honors. She had been awarded several honorary degrees, was a Trustee of American International College, and was decorated with the Legion of Honor of France in 1932.

She established scholarships through the DAR, making a strong plea to extend the organization’s scholarships so that youth could go to school without mortgaging their lives by borrowing. “Borrowing money,” she told the DAR, “is more a burden than a panacea.”

She set up the Edith Scott Magna Scholarship at American International College, an institution which she favored during her lifetime. She worked

tirelessly, too, for Clarke School for the Deaf, another of her favorite projects. She was trustee of Lincoln Memorial University at Harrogate, Tennessee, and worked feverishly to promote quality programs at Lincoln.

Mrs. Magna was a member of Quota, and Smith College Alumnae. She enjoyed the faith and favor of all with whom she associated. Her life was really a hymnal of invincibility to things of the spirit.

Life is full of coincidences. When the writer was in London in 1960, she boarded a sightseeing bus bound for the midlands. In the seat adjoining sat a woman, an American from the mid-West who, in the course of conversation, asked where the writer lived. "Oh, Holyoke!" she exclaimed. "You must know Edith Scott Magna. She was our President-General, DAR. A most remarkable woman."

Edith Scott Magna was just that, a most remarkable woman. Death came in 1960.

Mrs. Robert (Joan Corcoran) Steiger's volunteer contributions to the Holyoke community are astronomical. To try to assess their extensiveness would be as difficult as asking a kindergartner to try to compute sidereal time. Here is a young woman, wife of a leading Holyoke merchant, whose life style could embrace considerable leisure, wide travel, or some fascinating career, if she so desired. Mrs. Steiger, however, as volunteers who preceded her, had chosen to take a less travelled road and that, in the poet Frost's words, "has made all the difference."

Joan Steiger, born in Holyoke, attended elementary schools here, Walnut Hill, Mount Holyoke College and Boston College Law School.

Her activities in this community date from her graduation from college in 1960. Every year since that date seems to have been a banner one.

The scope of Joan Steiger's efforts may best be measured by listing several of the numerous groups with which she identifies in some way. At one time or another in her short life, she has served on the following boards and committees: Board of Directors, Holyoke Chamber of Commerce; Executive Committee of United Fund; Urban Advisory Committee of Hampshire College; Director of Street School; Director of Holyoke Hospital Aid Association, Board of Directors, St. Paul's Nursery; and Policy Advisory Committee, Holyoke Community Action Program.

Mrs. Steiger has held offices in several organizations: Vice President of the first Board of CROP; President of Junior League of Holyoke, Inc.; and Chairman of the State Public Affairs Committee of the Massachusetts League of Women Voters. Mrs. Steiger has also served on the Charter Study Committee of the League.

In 1965, Mrs. Steiger became Holyoke's first Chairman of Headstart. That program, and the Great Books (Jr. League) inaugurated in this city's junior high schools, were two projects credited to Mrs. Steiger's involvement. She was one of the first, too, to become a volunteer paraprofessional in the public schools' Travel Labs. The Labs, bookmobiles or libraries on wheels, were designed to serve the culturally deprived in depressed area schools.

In connection with Headstart, Mrs. Steiger wrote an analysis and history of the program for

the Junior League magazine. Her review was well received and widely used.

Still another activity in which Joan Steiger participated was promotion of the Annual Children's Concerts of Springfield Symphony. Here again, she was supporting a cultural project sorely needed in the Holyoke community. It is typical of Mrs. Steiger to support priorities. She is not one to do merely to be doing.

Mrs. Steiger, intensely loyal to Holyoke, is greatly concerned about the city's problems. In her opinion, the city can, with united effort, advance and survive.

She greatly enjoys, as might be expected, volunteer work. "It is fascinating," is her way of putting it, "as it offers the opportunity to meet with professionals of many different disciplines. There is a naive freshness to it."

Her philosophy of life is a heritage, she is quick to say, from wonderful parents. To justify one's existence is the credo to which she subscribes. "In working to achieve this goal I find it exciting and fulfilling," she explained.

In 1972 Joan Corcoran Steiger was Holyoke's Outstanding Woman of the Year, and deservedly so. She is one who believes strongly that women have great potential. This fine young person is one who is proving it by her own example.

Mr. and Mrs. Steiger have one son, Jeffrey, age 10.

Some volunteers have concentrated their service in one area and have made, in this way, substantial contributions to the agency or agencies fortunate enough to be recipients of their efforts. One



MRS. ROBERT K. (Joan Corcoran) STEIGER

who has excelled in doing just that is Mrs. Eliot (Marion P.) Brooks.

A goodly share of Mrs. Brooks' leisure time is devoted to the ill and the aging. Those on the receiving line of her beneficence include: Municipal Home Hospital, Chapel Hill Nursing Home, Oak Manor Nursing Home, Mental Health Nursery, and Holyoke Council for the Aged.

A Holyoke native, Marion Brooks was educated in its public schools and Mount Holyoke College, where, in 1933, she was awarded a Baccalaureate Degree. She is the kind of individual that is frank, open, witty, and wise - a charming combination of characteristics measured by the best of standards. Above all else, Mrs. Brooks harbors a deep concern for the plight of the unfortunate.

Her philosophy, uncomplicated by categorical imperatives, does justice, in a sense, to the kind of

person she is. "Yes, I have a philosophy", she explained, "it's just to do the best I can and leave the rest to God."

Mrs. Brooks had several thoughts about our city and women, in particular, at this point in history. In respect to the latter, she offered this opinion: "I am afraid Women's Lib has gone from the sublime to the ridiculous. True quality will always be recognized, and I doubt that stridency can be equated with progress."

She spoke feelingly about our city, "My city, right or wrong! This is my city. I am grateful for having had Holyoke as a home."

Mrs. Brooks is Secretary-Treasurer of Holyoke Council on the Aging, First Vice-President of Holyoke Hospital Aid Association, former secretary of Holy Cross Parish Council, and former member of the Board of Directors, Holyoke Municipal Home.

One of Mrs. Brooks' "firsts" was the assistance she offered in getting Catholic Masses permitted in local nursing homes. Of this venture, she remarked, "Although they are now commonplace, it was, in the beginning, a very exciting innovation, for the patients came in beds and wheelchairs. For many it was the first time in years that they had a chance to participate."

Marion Brooks is a worthy daughter of Ann Cronin Hewitt (Chapter IX), for she is spending a full and fruitful life helping the helpless.

Mrs. Helen Kenefick, wife of the late Austin W. Kenefick who was for years prominent in the insurance business in this city, is still another whose

volunteer contributions to the Holyoke community have been most praiseworthy. In her more active days, particularly in the thirties and forties, Mrs. Kenefick's involvement reached towering heights.

As in the case of other volunteers not native to Holyoke, she came to the city following marriage and entered into its social and civic life soon after arrival. The first organization she chose to serve was the Community Chest. She was a member of the Chest's Board for ten years, and Division Chairman for two. Interest in child welfare led Mrs. Kenefick to serve on the Boston Board of MSPCC for a decade. It was during this period that an effort was being made to consolidate children's services. Mrs. Kenefick was among those who worked to secure a merger of MSPCC and Children's Aid. When both were consolidated, she became the new organization's (Children's Services) first president.

Mrs. Kenefick was one who strongly supported the establishment of a Mental Health Center for the greater Holyoke area. When it became a reality, she was among the first of a group appointed to its Board of Directors. She worked diligently during her terms as Board Member to help expand the Center's facilities.

There were other activities, too. She was Board Member of Young Women's Christian Association, Red Cross and the local Youth Service Committee. From 1948-1950, she was president of the Holyoke Women's Club. Currently she is a member of the Women's Committee of the Holyoke Museum, and Holy Cross Chapter, National Council of Catholic women.

Mrs. Kenefick is a talented musician. Because she plays the piano quite well, her playing has

been in frequent demand. During World War II she accompanied USO shows, played for veterans at Leeds Hospital, and entertained hospitalized soldiers based at Westover. More recently Mrs. Kenefick has played for other special groups. She has accompanied the style shows produced by the Holyoke Evening Practical Arts Division of the School Department on several occasions. Her ability to change pace, key, and style to suit circumstance is reminiscent of silent movie days when the pianist was that versatile he could adapt his playing almost immediately to momentary changes in the film.

Mrs. Kenefick, talented and cultured, is a woman of impeccable tastes. She enjoys reading, homemaking, decorating and music. She has brought much joy into the lives of others.

Mrs. Kenefick has one son, Austin W., a news reporter originally with the Transcript-Telegram and more recently with the Springfield Daily News.

The energy of the human spirit is remarkable. A fitting example is the life style of Mrs. Frederick (Eileen) Weissbrod, native of Greenfield, who came to Holyoke in 1912 immediately following her marriage. For sixty-one years thereafter she devoted herself to church, family, friends, and community.

Long interested in scouting, Mrs. Weissbrod has served that organization with distinction both as troop leader, and as advisor to the various on-going Commissions. Back when the Scouts were studying the feasibility of "going regional", she served on the Steering Committee organized to effect the change from a local group to that of an

area regional Council. Regionalization was eventually accomplished when the Holyoke Girl Scouts, Inc., became the Western Massachusetts Girl Scouts Council.

For years Mrs. Weissbrod, along with her Scouting activities, also identified with Red Cross. She served at one period as secretary of that organization and was a long-time member of its Board of Directors. For tireless and unusual service to Red Cross she was elected an Honorary Lifetime Board Member. This is an honor cherished by her over a thirty year period.

Her service to church has been no less distinguished. She was instrumental in founding Blessed Sacrament's Women's Club and has chaired innumerable committees of that group ever since its inception. Holyoke Hospital Aid and Skinner Clinic have benefited from Mrs. Weissbrod's volunteer commitments as have several smaller organizations.

Mrs. Weissbrod, mother, grandmother, homemaker and volunteer, states simply, "I just try to do my best and to help others whenever possible. My life goal is so to live that I may have the respect and love of my family and friends." Mrs. Weissbrod has certainly achieved her goal.

Mrs. Eileen Weissbrod and the late Frederick Weissbrod are the parents of three sons and three daughters: Paul, Philip, Frederick, Mary, Barbara, and Elinor (Mrs. John Twohig). The two eldest, Paul and Philip, are deceased.

Mrs. Selina Griffin, matriarch of the Black community at her point in time, was widely known and greatly loved in this community. Possessing as

she did a beautiful character, she was a shining example of perserverance and goodness wherever she moved.

The writer recalls Mrs. Griffin as a motherly woman - gentle, kind, serene, and noble. She had a dignity, reserve, and quiet pride that commanded respect of all who knew her. She was a strong leader and a good woman.

The service Selina Griffin rendered the Holyoke community was of the highest order. A parishioner of St. Paul's, in speaking of Mrs. Griffin's ability as a leader related this anecdote. In the course of a meeting of the parishioners of St. Paul's, relative to fund raising for the construction of its educational and recreation building, team captains were reporting the pledges collected. Mrs. Griffin rose and reported firmly but without fanfare that the sum of \$1,000 was being donated by her people. Tears came to the eyes of those listening; she electrified the group and inspired them to greater effort.

In speaking of "her people", Mrs. Griffin was referring to St. Luke's Mission which she co-founded and which in 1955 became part of St. Paul's Espiscopal church.

Originally, on January 4, 1942, Mrs. Griffin, along with other co-founders of St. Luke's, petitioned the Rev. Mr. Madison, then Rector of St. Paul's, to form a separate but related unit to be known as St. Luke's Protestant Episcopal Mission. In September of 1942 the Mission actually opened in the Ward II area. Though its quarters were not the best, the faith of the congregation more than compensated for the Mission's lack of grandiose accommodations. Today members of St. Luke's worship at St. Paul's.

Selina Griffin was an educated woman, a cultured woman. She was highly regarded by Mr. and Mrs. William G. Dwight and Judge and Mrs. Davenport. Her ability to organize and supervise church suppers at St. Paul's was widely recognized by a grateful community whose people returned over and over again if Mrs. Griffin had anything to do with them.

Though she was not born here, Mrs. Griffin loved the city and its people. The writer knows of no one who has had anything but the best to say of this unusual woman.

Of Mrs. Griffin's five children, John and Ernestine are deceased; Frank lives in Springfield, Albert and Alma (Mrs. George Jennings) live in Holyoke. Mrs. Griffin would be proud today could she know that a grandson, George Jennings, teaches in the Holyoke Public Schools.

Miss Rebecca Bray, retired Holyoke educator, has spent all the days of her years helping people. Rebecca Bray has never been known to say "No" to any worthy cause. The writer has contacted her on numerous occasions to help here or there on some community project. Invariably her answer would be "Yes. That is, I'll try."

Rebecca is a delightfully pleasant person, rarely if ever nonplussed, irrespective of the occasion. Additionally, she is just about the most ecumenically-minded individual this writer has ever known. The wonderful thing about it, she does not preach ecumenism, she lives it, and without fanfare of any kind.

This woman knows no generation gap. She relates well to all kinds of people, and all ages of

people. Her spirit seems ever to reflect the image of perennial youth. She is one who meets each day as it comes - bravely, faithfully, happily.

Miss Bray is a Quotarian, a member of the Women's Committee, Holyoke Museum; First United Church Women; Holyoke Chapter, National Conference of Christians and Jews; Holyoke Hospital Aid; and First United Church Choir.

Music is Miss Bray's hobby. She has a fine voice and is able at the piano. An ardent supporter of the Community Concert Series, Miss Bray has supported the Series for years. She has been one of its most solid boosters.

Wherever there is action for home, church, or community, Rebecca Bray is there. The vivifying actions of her life must surely be touched by a spark of the Divine.

A woman who has done more for Labor in this area than any other known to the writer is Mrs. Anna B. Sullivan, widow of William J. Sullivan. In the different labor roles she assumed through the years, Mrs. Sullivan always maintained the dignity, honor, and courage identified with positive leadership. She is a woman who has devoted a lifetime of service to improve the lot of all kinds of people.

A pleasant, independent, and sincere individual, Mrs. Sullivan is one known to be reasonable in her judgments, determined in her actions, and objective in her evaluations. Along with other women leaders, she has always been right there in the forefront of movements designed to better community life and living.

In her own field, Mrs. Sullivan, has held several positions of importance. She served as Vice President of the State CIO Textile Union; was treasurer of AFL-CIO Textile Union in Springfield, and was an officer of the Joint Board of the Textile Workers Union in Western Massachusetts, serving the Berkshire and Holyoke areas, respectively.

For a number of years Mrs. Sullivan was with the Board of Community Chest, and later with United Fund. She served on the Board of YWCA for five years and was also a member of the original Board of Mental Health Center for many years.

Mrs. Sullivan, as a representative of labor, has served on scholarship boards, civic and educational panels, and other projects too numerous to list.

Today, she is with the Springfield office of the Massachusetts Commission on Discrimination. No fairer woman could have been selected to serve such an important post.

Mrs. Charles (Constance M. Mahoney) O'Neill, Holyoke native and Daughter of the American Revolution, is a member of one of Holyoke's older and more prominent families. Her father, Dr. Stephen A. Mahoney, was an outstanding physician and surgeon in this community. Her brother, the late Stephen A. Mahoney, Jr. followed his father in the medical profession and became a successful surgeon; so did still another brother, Dr. Edwin M. Mahoney, also deceased.

Mrs. O'Neill has always exhibited a vital interest in community activities and has participated in a number of them, mainly Girl Scouting, United Fund, and Pioneer Valley Committees on Camping and Personnel. She has served in the past as Direc-

tor of Camp Lewis Perkins, and Executive Director of Girl Scouts. She was herself a Scout in her youth. It was during younger days in Scouting that she first began to exhibit great potential for leadership.

Mrs. O'Neill, an active member of DAR, has been in more recent years in charge of its essay contests in the schools. That chore she executes well, as Constance O'Neill is one to approach a task with the ease and diligence of a veteran. She relates well to school personnel and they to her.

Mrs. O'Neill is a Board Member of Red Cross, past Board Member YWCA, and a sustaining member of the Junior League.

"Women", Mrs. O'Neill volunteered in an interview with the writer, "are wonderful. They do much more than is credited to them. Holyoke, I believe, is going through a period of transition", Mrs. O'Neill went on. "I have great hope for it, as the city's people are proud to be Holyokers."

Mr. and Mrs. Charles O'Neill have two daughters, Caroline M., now Mrs. Austin Stern, and Constance S., Mrs. Richard Gourdeau, both interested in Scouting.

Another who worked tirelessly for the city's social, cultural, and civic agencies was Mrs. Henry V. (Marcelle) Burgee who came to Holyoke in 1930. A native of New Orleans, Mrs. Burgee brought with her the warmth, vivaciousness, and "bon ton" usually associated with southern women of refinement.

In the thirties many amateur theatrical groups were in operation in Holyoke. Mrs. Burgee participated in a number of these. She remembers, she told the writer, directing "Journey's End" and

several other productions during that period. The writer herself recalls having volunteered to organize a children's Little Theatre Group in that same era, and that Mrs. Burgee was most helpful in lending assistance.

Though work with theatre groups was Mrs. Burgee's first introduction to Holyoke, she soon expanded her arena of service to include E.R.A., Loomis House, Red Cross, Junior Service Corps, and eventually Junior League. She was first Chairman of ERA's projects, president of VNA for five years, President of Loomis House, President of the Junior League, and Board Member of Holyoke's Mental Health Center. Presently she is co-chairman of the "Clean-Up Holyoke" campaign, and is serving also on the Centennial Advisory Committee.

A woman of pleasing personality, Mrs. Burgee relates well to people. She is a good listener, one not afraid to try the seemingly impossible, and one, also, who inevitably achieves her goals.

Mrs. Burgee and the late Mr. Burgee were the parents of two daughters, Maria (Mrs. William Dwight, Jr.) and Paula (Mrs. John Gallup).

Mrs. Susan Panitch, wife of Dr. Victor Panitch, has given generously of her service to this community. A newcomer to Holyoke, Mrs. Panitch entered into the city's volunteer activities almost immediately following her arrival here.

It is amazing what can be done if women will to do it. Mrs. Panitch is an example in point. The list of her activities encompasses a variety of involvements. Currently, she is President of Providence Hospital Guild, Chairman of Home Tours, Assistant Buyer in Providence Hospital Gift

Shop, and Co-Chairman of the Centennial Fund-Raising Committee for Providence Hospital's One Hundredth Anniversary.

Mrs. Panitch was a Girl Scout leader for two years, and Secretary of the SPCC for five. She is a member of the Board of Directors - Holyoke Chapter of Hadassah and is Secretary for the Sisterhood, Sons of Zion. She compiled and edited the cookbook of the latter group.

Susan Panitch, without ceremony, initiated a system of free examinations for underprivileged children in attendance at Westover's Camp program, and before coming to Holyoke, transcribed books into braille for children who were blind.

Whatever Mrs. Panitch undertakes, she does well. In addition to other activities, she has served on Holyoke's Beautification Committee and is a life member of the Public Library Corporation.

This year of 1973 women continue to serve church and community with distinction. Mrs. James F. Kelly, nee Gladys Taylor, native of Grimsby, Lincolnshire, England came to this community in 1946 as a "War Bride". She had been a WAF in the British Air force during the War and met her husband during his assignment in Britain.

Mrs. William G. (Minnie R.) Dwight took the young woman under her wing the moment she learned that back in her home town, Mrs. Kelly was an experienced volunteer in the Girl Guide movement, the English equivalent of America's Girl Scouts. The second day after arrival in this country, Mrs. Dwight invited the young lady to address a meeting of Scout Volunteers convening at War Memorial building. Mrs. Kelly agreed, and from

that point on she became involved in volunteer work, for Girl Scouts, PTA, and several church and charitable groups.

For some years (the forties and fifties), Mrs. Kelly organized troops, promoted the Scout cause, and was at one time President of the Council. There were other involvements, too. During and well after her own children completed the elementary grades at Joseph Metcalf School, Mrs. Kelly was a conscientious PTA member. On three separate occasions, she was elected President of the Metcalf School PTA unit. When Parent-Teacher organizations were at their height in Holyoke, she was elected presiding officer of the City's PTA Council.

A devoted communicant of St. Paul's Episcopal church, she has served for fifteen years as Superintendent of the Church School, was the first woman to serve on the Church Vestry, and the first woman Junior Warden, not only at St. Paul's but also the first to serve in this capacity in the Western Massachusetts diocese. She is currently president of Women of St. Paul's, a group devoted to the service of the church and its welfare work.

Mr. and Mrs. Kelly have three children: Susan, Mrs. Matthew Kiely; Gregory, a 1973 graduate of Stockbridge School, the University of Massachusetts; and Geoffry, a 1973 graduate of Holyoke High School.

Mrs. Rachel Guilding Duncan, wife of Earl Duncan of Holyoke Savings Bank, is another English lady who came to Holyoke in 1946 and adjusted beautifully to the American way of life. Her service to church and community in the quarter

century just past is worthy of the utmost commendation and acclaim.

It is a delight to listen to Mrs. Duncan for she speaks the English tongue in its purity, almost at a literary level. As with all Britons of education, her diction is excellent and her inflection natural and rhythmical. The writer served on a panel with Mrs. Duncan several years back and was impressed with the high quality of her speech and the clarity with which she expressed her ideas.

Mrs. Duncan, an active volunteer in community agencies, has served as past president, Visiting Nurse Association; past treasurer, Holyoke Junior League; former Program Coordinator, St. Paul's Church. Currently she is a member of the Thursday Club.

Whenever Mrs. Duncan's name is mentioned, invariably this question is raised. "Is that the lady who does such beautiful and artistic needlepoint?" Perhaps it is safe to say that Mrs. Rachel Duncan is probably Holyoke's most gifted needlepoint artist. She it was who taught the women of St. Paul's how to make a thirty-foot altar kneeler in needlepoint for the church. She herself created the design for this. The kneeler, rare and esthetic in design, is a panorama of the city of Holyoke.

Mrs. Duncan has also created designs for the hangings in the Sons of Zion Synagogue. Here, too, she taught selected members of the Congregation the fine art of working these designs in needlepoint.

The Duncans have three children: Peter, John and Susan.

It is elevating and encouraging to reflect upon the vast number of women from all stations in life who contributed, at some point in time during this past century, to the betterment of the Holyoke community. It is even more uplifting, however, when the volunteers who extended themselves in the cause of the community were seemingly the busiest of women, yet never too busy to do just one thing more.

Mrs. Robert E. Barrett, Sr., who was the wife of the President of the Holyoke Water Power Company is a case in point. She came to Holyoke in 1920. Because of the position held by her husband, she usually shared with him an unusually heavy social calendar. Despite involvements connected with socialization, Mrs. Barrett seemed always ready and able to do one thing more.

She was a woman whose interests were multi-dimensional. They covered First United Church of which she was a member and deacon, YWCA for which she worked tirelessly, and the Holyoke Hospital Aid Association to which she devoted hours of volunteer service.

Born in Framingham, Mrs. Barrett received her early education there and attended the State Normal School located in that community. In the early 1900's she taught in the public schools of Cambridge and Concord. As a matter of historical interest it is worthy of note that among her pupils was Rose Fitzgerald, later Mrs. Joseph P. Kennedy, wife of the Ambassador to Britain and mother of John F. Kennedy, President of the United States.

Mrs. Barrett, deceased since 1971, was the mother of Frederick P. Barrett of the Nonotuck Manufacturing Company, Robert E. Barrett, Jr.,

President of Holyoke Water Power Company and Western Massachusetts Electric Company, and Mrs. Howard H. Allen, only daughter.

Mrs. Arthur (Bessie O'Connell) Ryan, came to this city in her youth and was educated in the local schools. Her parents owned the O'Connell Lunch Cart business back when the city was in its infancy. Her husband, brother of Minnie R. Dwight and retired Managing Editor of the Transcript-Telegram, has always been held in the highest respect as a journalist, citizen, husband, and father.

The Arthur Ryan family moved to South Hadley nearly a half century ago. Mrs. Ryan, however, always took a lively interest in Holyoke affairs and was involved in volunteer work here and in South Hadley for a goodly number of years. During her residency in Holyoke, she gave unstintingly of time and effort in behalf of Holyoke and Brightside. Her parents knew Mother Mary of Providence well. In the days of the Lunch Cart business, sandwiches and soup would be sent gratis to the Sisters and to the hospital.

Mrs. Ryan's sister, Helen O'Connell Moriarty, was a gifted pianist. Throughout her lifetime she used her musical talent to make people happy. In her heyday she was a regular performer at Veterans' Hospital at Leeds. She also played for clubs, holiday parties, and church affairs.

Mrs. John (Beatrice Cooley) Miles, one of Holyoke's most active senior citizens, was born in 1889 and widowed at twenty-nine years of age. After raising three of her own children, and a niece, she went into volunteer work and is today at the age of eighty-three, president of the Senior

Citizens Club, vice-president of the Golden Agers and Chaplain of Granddaughters of the Civil War Veterans.

Mrs. Miles is a member of the Council for the Aging, of the "Monday Nite" Club of Skinner Coffee House, and also a member of the Holyoke Women's Club. She is, this Historic One Hundredth, saluted for her leadership and involvement, her energy and courage, and her faith and endurance at the grand old age of eighty-three.

The orchid, a proud and beautiful flower, is usually tendered in fitting recognition or remembrance of a special occasion or a particular service. On this, Holyoke's Historic One Hundredth, the writer includes, in columnist format, a list of women who, figuratively speaking, deserve an orchid for service rendered this community at one time or another during the century just past: Mrs. Emily (Walter) Thompson for the happiness she brought to Holyoke's people during her pageantry-writing days . . . actress Jean Guild for the joy she created for Holyoke's theatre-going public when stock was in its heyday at Mountain Park . . . Mrs. Bernice Fowler for the beauty created through artistry in ceramics . . . Mrs. Mary Malfas for outstanding volunteer service in behalf of children and youth at CROP and Sunshine Village . . . Mrs. Theresa Nichols for her dedication to the Greek Orthodox Women's Aid Society . . . Mrs. Mary Banister for leadership exerted in work with the Golden Agers . . . the Misses Gertrude and Esther Harty for years of devotion to the cause of Holyoke Chapter, NCCJ . . . Mrs. Karolina Martowicz and Catherine Nitkewicz for their past leadership in Polish women's organizations . . . Mrs. Florence

Kostin for tremendous service, in quiet and unassuming manner, to NCCJ (earlier years) and (presently) to the city's Council for the Aging . . . Mrs. Anita Levin-Epstein for interest in advancing teaching, healing, and research in health care . . . Mrs. Lester Halpern, Mrs. Benjamin Marcus, and other Hadassah women, for fund raising in the cause of Hadassah's donor events . . . Mrs. Victor A. Waring, R.N., for volunteer work on behalf of education about cancer . . . the ladies of Holyoke Junior League, Inc. for their volunteer services to the Holyoke Public Schools . . . all the women who devoted a lifetime of service as librarians at Holyoke Library and Museum, and for the cooperation these ladies extended to the schools of this city from the days of Mrs. Sarah Ely to the present . . . the four Canavan sisters, the Misses Mary, Agnes, Ruth and Jane, as conscientious club women, also as generous donors to charitable causes . . . Mrs. Dolores Stein for involvement in a number of organizations, especially for service to NCCJ . . . Mrs. Edgar Zaumseil for leadership in founding the Smith's Ferry Women's Club . . . Mrs. Mary (Walsh) Dowd and Miss Margaret Walsh, R.N., for tireless effort expended in behalf of Quota Club projects and for hospitality extended on the occasions they entertained Quotarians in their home; again, for Mrs. Dowd's Christmas fruit cake sales undertaken to raise money for Quota Club . . . Mrs. Robert Abrams for leadership in reviving the Holyoke League of Women Voters . . . Mrs. Francis Heywood for on-going interest in Scouting while a resident of Holyoke . . . Mrs. Mary (Clayton) Crosier, formerly with the Transcript-Telegram, for early interest in establishing a Council of Catholics, Protestants, and Jews in Holyoke . . . Mrs. Ethel Haley, founder of the Jackson Parkway

Tutoring program . . . Mrs. William (Marcella) Teahan for leadership exerted in support of school policy and for cooperation with school administrators . . . Mrs. Helen Nelson Shaw for outstanding service to PTA in the early days of its reorganization . . . Mrs. Eunice Glassman, a tremendous worker for the schools, particularly back in the days when Morgan had a strong PTA . . . Miss Beatrice Bateman for monies raised for Brightside through the sale of aprons designed and made by her . . . Miss Edith Sullivan for volunteer work at Providence Hospital where she was in charge of the patients' library cart; also for a history of Providence written by her for the Sisters of that order . . . Mrs. Rose (Delaney) Stickel, for research in connection with material used in this volume . . . Mrs. Liliane Bresnahan for hours beyond the regular day devoted to its typing . . . Miss Hildegarde Newton for indispensable help in proofreading the manuscript . . . Miss Ann Cronin, for following up on interviews . . . Mrs. Adele Zwirko for checking the return of questionnaires . . .

Eleanor Lescault and Mercedes Goddu of the Transcript-Telegram for checking facts for the writer . . . A special medallion of merit is tendered Mr. John Hickey for technical assistance rendered in the handling and processing of the manuscript. To Mrs. Helen (McLean) Hickey, John's mother, and a one-time schoolmate of the writer, an orchid in recognition of her son's contributions to the Holyoke community.

A number of Holyoke women have served on this City's Boards from the earliest days of its founding. The Whiting Street fund was one of the first public boards to which women were appointed. Between 1881 and the present the following

women, at different points in time, expended time and energy to fulfill the mission assigned them: Julia M. Patten, M.D., Mrs. John J. Prew, J. J. Callomon, Mrs. Albert Morris, Mrs. J. J. O'Connor, Mrs. Kate Moynihan, Mrs. Samuel Snell, Mrs. Stephen Gifford, Mrs. W. A. Babcock, Mrs. Margaret A. Carlon, Mrs. Emil W. Kroepel, Miss Elizabeth Delaney, Miss Claire E. O'Connor, Miss Esther M. Greeley, Miss Nellie Boland, Mrs. Georgianna Fortin, Mrs. Margaret F. Seibel, Mrs. Marguerite Sears, Mrs. Nellie McLean, Mrs. Agnes Sullivan, Mrs. Margaret E. Babyok, Mrs. Julia B. Greaves and Mrs. Adeline L. Donohue.

Women have also served on the Parks and Recreation Commission between 1919, the date of its establishment, and the present: Mrs. W. G. Dwight, Mrs. Frank Curley, Miss Katherine Mahoney, Mrs. P. M. Lynch, Miss Esther Greeley, Dr. Julia L. Bauman, Mrs. Barbara Lippman, Mrs. Teresa LaRoche, Mrs. Barbara Dennis and Miss Bess Stathis.

The Planning Board, comparatively new, has had but two women appointed to it: Miss Jane E. Cameron and Mrs. Joan Steiger.

Undoubtedly, many names will have been omitted from this Chapter for lack of information or insufficient time to do the research required. For whatever sins of omission have been committed, the writer offers a sincere apology.

CHAPTER IX

WOMEN IN BUSINESS

“To business that we love, we rise betimes and go to it with delight.”

- SHAKESPEARE

Holyoke's story on women in business is completely fascinating. From the humblest who started with nothing and achieved something to the privileged who had something and made the most of it - all, irrespective of status, seemed to delight in their work.

It is amazing the number of women who have contributed something ennobling to business in this city the past one-hundred years. In a world of corporate enterprise dominated by men, women dared to compete on equal footing, and in so doing earned the respect and admiration of both men and women. Some women found themselves in the hub-bub of the business arena by accident, others by circumstance, still others by design.

Women's first thrust in the new city was retail selling. Mrs Honora Manning owned a variety store on High Street well before 1900, specializing in everything from infant's wear to garments for the elderly. Records note the Mrs. Honora Manning was a shrewd business woman and a natural saleslady.

Minnie R. Dwight who knew every exceptional woman of her day on a first name basis described Mrs. Manning as a sparkling person who had a way with customers. ⁽¹⁾ It appears, too, that Honora Manning was a successful investor in real estate, another phase of business in which Holyoke

(1) Women Leaders of Holyoke; Transcript-Telegram, Special Edition 1949, P. 17



MRS. ABBEY CRAY

women seemed to have succeeded down through the years.

One of the more appealing stories of women is that of Abbey Cray. Mrs. Cray never planned to enter the business world. Left widowed with ten children in 1882, she vowed she would exert her energies in whatever respectable enterprise possible in order to support and educate her children.

Mrs. Cray's initial enterprise was yeast-making in her home. So successful was this venture, she decided to build a ten-footer, a small box-like shell of a store, in which she sold everything from yeast to hairpins. As profits began to pour in, Mrs. Cray looked to higher horizons. Her future in business seemed assured. By 1883 she was one of but three successful business women in Holyoke. It was Mrs. Cray's way to plan with audacity and execute with purpose. Accordingly she arranged for the building of several apartment blocks: three at 712, 714 and 716 Dwight Street, respectively, all completed in 1905; the Abbey at 720 Dwight and the

Cray on Walnut Street were not completed until 1910. Mrs. Cray's sister, Catherine and brother, Daniel operated a bakery shop in one of the first Dwight Street units for a number of years.

The simple story of this fine woman serves as a refreshing example of Providence helping those who try to help themselves. The daughters, granddaughters, and great-granddaughters of this courageous woman exhibit today something of the spark Abbey Cray kindled nearly a century ago. Helen Cray, her daughter, only recently deceased at the age of 92, was one of the co-founders of the Holyoke Business and Professional Women's Club. For the major portion of her life she was buyer in the lingerie department of the now defunct McAuslan and Wakelin Store.



MRS. CATHERINE (Harrington) CADY

Mrs. Cray's granddaughters, the famous Collins Trio (Chapter on the Arts), brought tremendous joy to countless people of the valley through their performances on stage, radio, and television. Erma Collins Devlin, leader of the trio, became the first woman treasurer of Holyoke Soldiers Home and was, as mentioned elsewhere, one-time president of Holyoke Quota Club. Two other granddaughters Hilda Driscoll Albee and Mary Driscoll Keane were graduated from Smith College and became teachers. Six great-grandchildren also entered the teaching profession.

There is an old adage: what woman has done, woman can do. Mrs. Cray's accomplishments serve as an inspiration to other women, especially those less fortunate than the majority.

Several Holyoke women owned small neighborhood businesses that later became landmarks of a kind in various sections of the city. One such was Katie Cady who operated the "Penny Candy Store" located on the south side of Lyman Street between Maple and Chestnut in the Ward Four area.

Various and sundry articles were sold in Mrs. Cady's place of business - penny candy galore, ice cream when in season, canned vegetables, boxed cereals, bagged coal, charcoal, or coke, bread, milk, candy, tobacco, cigaretts, and snuff. On Saturday and Sunday mornings, Mrs. Cady sold homebaked beans garnished with lean salt pork for ten cents a quart.

According to Mrs. Cady's daughter, Evadine, (Mrs William O'Connor) old-timers love to reminisce about the happy hours they had at Mrs. Cady's store.

Those who knew Mrs. Cady best speak of her as a rare person, one individualistic in style of speech, personality, and dress.

The following description of Mrs. Cady by her daughter is worthy of quote verbatim. "Hard manual work was Mrs. Cady's hobby from dawn to midnight. Ambition never failed her. Mother was a brilliant Irish woman, with a Yankee husband, Her belief was, God is good. She was humane, patient, earnest, progressive, and sincere. She always wore a fresh clean apron over her dress and a fresh red rose in her hair. Mother proved a successful marriage and business career were possible."

Mrs. Cady epitomizes the grit and sacrifice of early women who dared to explore the new and untried - women who were not afraid to be different but who, in doing so, never lost a sense of value.

One of Holyoke's first business women was the late Mrs. J. J. FitzGibbons who, about one hundred years ago opened her own millinery shop in the Transcript-Telegram building on the corner of High and John Streets. Mrs. Minnie Dwight, who knew Mrs. FitzGibbons well, spoke of her "as a milliner with all the taste and all the good salesmanship that used to mark that business."⁽²⁾

For fifteen years Mrs. FitzGibbons conducted shop at the High Street location moving eventually to Springfield where, as in Holyoke, her business prospered. In the Springfield establishment, she had at one time twenty girls working for her.

In an article appearing in the Transcript-Telegram, December 15, 1928, the occasion of Mrs. FitzGibbons' eightieth birthday, she is quoted as

(2) Women Leaders in Holyoke, Holyoke Transcript Special Edition 1949. P. 17

saying, "I started in business to get money to educate my children. My husband was a printer and I realized his pay envelope would never be sufficiently large to give the children the advantages I wanted them to have."

Mrs. FitzGibbons lived to see her goal accomplished. Her children, Doctors Frank, Grace and John FitzGibbons distinguished themselves in the health care professions as indicated elsewhere in this book; daughter Mary, Mrs. Charles Lathrop, was one of Springfield's first policewomen.

Mrs. Mary FitzGibbons was an astonishingly courageous woman. She launched her millinery business on less than a shoestring. On her first trip to New York to buy hats at a large wholesale house, she told the proprietor, "I need hats but I don't have a penny." Paradoxically enough, she succeeded in her mission. She did get the hats and within thirty days paid for them.

This conscientious woman never knew, during her lengthy career, what it was to work a mere eight-hour day. Her business routine began at seven in the morning and ended at nine at night; her home-making day started at nine in the evening and generally ended about twelve midnight. Periodically she would take the midnight train to New York to do her buying, shop all day, and return to Holyoke on the six o'clock train next evening.

The energy, drive, and courage of Mrs. J. J. FitzGibbons edified friends, neighbors, and acquaintances. A most unusual person was Mary Sullivan FitzGibbons, a woman, indeed, for all seasons.

Other early business women who contributed to the mercantile life of Holyoke included: Miss Nellie Healy also a milliner, who followed Mrs. FitzGibbons in that business. She is said to have been a dynamic personality, particularly sophisticated in the sphere where buyers operated. She was among the first who, in the nineties, sent Holyoke saleswomen to Paris to acquire first-hand information on what was new in the fashion center of the world. Mrs Healy's two nieces, the Warren sisters, Mary and Rose, carried on the business founded by their aunt. Their shop was located on Maple Street in the block Miss Healy had built with profits earned from her thriving business. The Curran sisters, four in number, also operated a millinery business about the same time as Miss Healy; they, too, traveled to Paris periodically to assess the latest in head gear, material, and design.

The story of another pioneer merchant, Miss Hannah Dowling, reads like a fairy tale. Here was an Irish immigrant who came to Holyoke at the beguiling age of sixteen and two years later began a career as a saleslady that climaxed eventually in fifty years of undreamed success.

After a short span as head clerk of the Silk Department at Ferguson and Logan's (later purchased by Albert Steiger) Miss Dowling and a niece Katherine Bunyan, opened a woman's specialty shop in the Windsor building on Dwight Street. Miss Hannah was the merchandizing manager of all departments in the store - dry goods, laces and trimmings, millinery, hosiery, lingerie, coats, suits, and dresses. It was the first store of its kind in this city opened and operated by a woman.

In 1906 the firm of Dowling and Bunyan purchased a building located at 339 High Street and the shop was moved to the new location. Ready-made clothing was just beginning to replace the "home-made" variety. As more and more consumers sought the ready-to-wear, the business advanced commensurately until 1924 when Miss Dowling bought her partner's share and the firm henceforth became Hannah Dowling, Inc.

Many there are today who remember the Dowling shop and Miss Hannah Dowling herself. The latter was a tremendously dignified individual - circumspect, impressive, always correctly attired, and unusually well-spoken. Withal, she had a grace and charm conducive to merchandizing. According to a relative, Hannah Dowling, Inc. was an exclusive establishment to which people came from far and near, for quality was the store's key word.

Miss Dowling's success was claimed to have stemmed from an unerring sense of taste, color, value, and quality. For her ability to distinguish the best from the near best, the tinselled from the real, and the stylish from the dowdy, she was highly respected in the "trade".

As with other women whose names have been inscribed in this book, Hanna Dowling was deeply spiritual and unusually charitable. During her lifetime she was an active member of Quota, the Business and Professional Women's Club, Holyoke Women's Club, St. Agnes Guild, and Holyoke Chamber of Commerce.

When death came suddenly in 1933, at the age of 71, the Transcript-Telegram said of her, "The story of this gracious, most unusual woman gives

her place with the merchants who have made history on High Street.”⁽³⁾

Following in Hannah Dowling’s footsteps was Miss Mary Sheehan who first opened a baby shop and later a women’s dress shop on Maple Street. Miss Sheehan’s establishment was considered “Fifth Avenue” in her day. When women wanted something truly exclusive, they went to the “Sheehan Shop.” Two of a kind could never be purchased in Miss Sheehan’s store.

In reflecting upon Holyoke’s early business women, their image was not that of the smooth, highly trained, dynamic business women of today’s more sophisticated market. They were, in a measure, quiet and unassuming ladies yet aware, for all of that, of what they were about.

Mary Sheehan was a quiet, conservative, God-fearing and cultured individual - successful, charitable, and civic-minded. Like Miss Dowling who was a contemporary, Miss Sheehan had a high class trade and never tried to sell a customer anything either unsuited to the person or unsuitable for wear.

Mary Sheehan specialized, as did Hannah Dowling, in quality. Both ladies were said to have enjoyed a consistently good-paying trade. Both ladies, too, knew their regular customers well, what they could afford, and what was best for them.

A woman to whom other women went for custom-made hats was Alma Josephine Chaloux who came to Holyoke from Canada in 1888. For the greater part of her life she was engaged in the

(3) Holyoke Transcript-Telegram, Oct. 2, 1933. Pp. 1,2.

designing and production of made-to-order hats. Her clientele consisted of prominent women as well as those not so prominent who could afford the luxury of a beautiful and fashionable chapeau.

Educated in a convent school in Canada, Miss Chaloux was a gentlelady. She is said to have been a model of deportment - kind, gentle, pleasant, and even-tempered. Her creative and artistic talents were much in demand forty or fifty years ago. She had the gift of suiting the hat to the individual, not the reverse. Her primary aim was to design a hat that would bring out an individual's best features. In this she was an artist. Many Holyoke women today remember Miss Chaloux well, for they had hat upon hat fashioned in her Maple Street Shop.

One close to her reminisced of the ability and patience Miss Chaloux exercised in handling customers. "Some could be and were, very trying; nonetheless, Miss Chaloux listened carefully and designed the hat to suit the face despite the qualms of the customer."

"She was truly an artist and a fine business woman," another who remembers Alma Chaloux volunteered. "But she was also a homebody and a friend in need. She was a joy to know, and her creations a joy to wear."

One of the last fine millinery establishments, owned and operated by a woman was the Luella Vaughn Shoppe. Miss Vaughn carried a variety of accessories - hats, handbags, gloves, and jewelry. Her store was located on Maple Street in the forties. The shoppe was closed out when its owner retired.

From the number of women in the millinery business when Holyoke was young, there can be no doubt whatsoever that hats "were in". In the so-called old days, ladies - true ladies - always wore hats befitting each proper occasion. Today, by contrast, shops operating on the sale of hats alone, could not exist. Never in the history of Holyoke or this nation were hats "as out" as they are at present.

With the rise of the department store and the increase in shopping centers, stores owned by women and catering specifically to ladies' apparel, seem to have decreased in the past twenty-five years. Lillian Benard operated a dress shop on Maple Street for a brief period in the fifties and sixties, but this is no more. Anita Morier, now deceased, also had a most lucrative woman's dress and hat shop on Maple Street, known as Anita's, which is still in existence but owned by a man; Mrs. Walter Griffin for at least two decades operated a dress shop on Suffolk Street in the Lincoln building. That too, is no longer in existence. All three women were completely knowledgeable in the trade and served Holyoke women well during the period when their businesses flourished.

A business still in operation is the Leary Shop on Maple Street founded by the late Anna C. Leary and maintained by the family for well over fifty years. The shop is the only one of its kind in operation in Holyoke today. Catering exclusively as it does to the finest in women's foundation garments and lingerie, the store attracts the kind of customer able to pay for quality and distinctiveness.

Miss Anna Leary was one of three sisters all of whom were leaders. Mary Leary, the first sister,

entered the Providence Order of nuns and eventually became Mother of that congregation. Mother Vincent was probably the first Holyoke-born nun to become Reverend Mother of the Sisters of Providence. The second sister, Ellen F. Leary Larkin, established in this city, circa the late 1800's, a dressmaking business of note. At one time seven seamstresses were employed in her establishment. Miss Anna Leary, the third sister, opened her lingerie business on High Street in 1921 adjacent to the site now occupied by Dunn's Drug Store.

About the same period that Miss Leary's business flourished on High Street, the three Cahill sisters operated the Cahill shop, a similar boutique, only a stone's throw from its competitor. It, too, enjoyed status in the trade.

When the Cahill shop was sold, Miss Leary move to Maple Street. Even during the Great Depression, when other small businesses failed, the Leary shop continued to thrive. Mrs. Frank L. Larkin and Mrs. Dennis (Anna Larkin) Dougherty managed the store for many years. The present manager is Mrs. F. David Larkin.

Miss Anna Leary, well remembered by the writer, was herself a lady of quality. She never thrust anything upon a customer. Her patience, mild disposition, and high sense of good taste account in great measure for the early success of the Leary Shop.

The two O'Connor sisters, Madelyn and Irene, owned and operated the "Eddy O'Connor" Clothing store on the west side of High Street between Appleton and Suffolk until their retirement more than a decade ago. The store originally owned by Edward O'Connor, their brother,

specialized in men's and women's clothing, mostly of the casual or sporty type. The shop enjoyed excellent trade while in operation as its merchandize was different and serviceable. The O'Connors were pleasant ladies and popular with customers. They had a coterie of steady buyers, knew their styles, and bought stock in terms of the customers' needs. It was not uncommon to have a customer say, "You know what I like. Next time you go to New York see what you can do."

The writer's sister, Mary A. Kelly, trained in merchandizing in the O'Connor establishment and later, in the forties, opened a baby shop on Myrtle Avenue in the Elmwood section of Holyoke.

Miss Kelly had unusual creative ability as a designer. For those who wished custom-made bassinets, these were designed and completed by her personally. The price for the design and the finished product ranged between one hundred and one-hundred fifty dollars. Though she carried children's clothing through age six, the custom-designed bassinet was the "specialty of the house."

In the late fifties, Miss Kelly joined Haynes and Company of Springfield as a buyer. She remained with that Company until it closed its Springfield Branch in 1971.

Miss Kelly was a most attractive lady, perennially young, intelligent, and creative. Retail selling was her forte and life; she enjoyed people and people enjoyed her.

Anna Riel was another who specialized in clothes for little tots. She operated the Riel Baby Shop on High Street and later on Maple Street from

1923 to 1959. She trained in merchandizing at A. Steiger's Holyoke store and was manager of its Children's Department for approximately twenty years. She spent over a half century of her life in retail selling.

Anna Riel was a petite woman, dainty in her ways, and blessed with a kind of quiet personal charm. She, too, was creative and possessed a fine sense of color and taste. Her shop was always attractive, and appealing. In her day she probably sold more baby clothes than any other establishment specializing in similar products.

Business, covering as it does a variety of enterprises under one umbrella has opened more and more new job classifications to women as the years unfolded and needs changed.

Mrs. Charles R. Dunbar, formerly of Central Park Drive, was indisputably one of Holyoke's early pioneers in the automobile business. Nee Helen Clark, she was born in this city and educated in Holyoke's schools. Her husband was one of the city's first automobile magnates whose business enterprises were instantaneously successful. Mr. Dunbar enjoyed a General Motors franchise in this area and elsewhere for a number of years. His dabblings in real estate, particularly in Florida, were phenomenal. In the thirties, when he became seriously ill, his wife began to play an active role in the administration of his holdings. When his death came in 1943, Mrs. Dunbar assumed complete administration of his several businesses.

From 1943 until approximately a decade ago, Mrs. Dunbar managed the family holdings. An indication of her status in the business world was her election to the presidency of the Motor Car Com-

pany of New England, an honor her husband had achieved short years previously. Mrs. Dunbar held similar high offices in several companies owned wholly or partially by her husband. She served, following her husband's death, as vice president, president, and later treasurer of Purity Springs Water Company, Inc., one of Mr. Dunbar's most successful Florida ventures.

Mrs. Dunbar was well-known to the writer. She served with her on many boards throughout the years. Inactive today, this tremendously energetic lady was until comparatively recently an active, vibrant, dynamic individual, one who never found the day long enough to accomplish all that needed to be done. Helen Dunbar was a small woman, at times even fragile looking, but her step, ever firm and quick, never faltered.

In addition to managing the several family businesses, Mrs. Dunbar was thoroughly involved in community services. Her generosity was boundless. Donations to clubs, scholarships, and charitable causes were legion.

Mrs. Dunbar established nursing scholarships at each of the city's two major hospitals, Holyoke and Our Lady of Providence; additionally, she furnished a patient's room in honor of her husband, in each of the hospitals mentioned. At Shadowbrook in Lenox, still another patient's room was furnished also to honor her husband's memory. Her donations to Holyoke Day Nursery, United Fund, the Public Library, and Dominican nuns were always substantial.

One of Mrs. Dunbar's greatest satisfactions was her association with service clubs. She held membership and high elective offices in Holyoke

Women's Club, Quota Club, the Guild of St. Agnes, and St. John's Circle of the Guild. She was a member of Business and Professional Women's Club, Holyoke Taxpayers Association, the Public Library Corporation, and Friends of the Holyoke Museum. For many years, too, she served on the finance committee of the Holyoke Chapter, American Red Cross.

Mrs. Dunbar, successful business administrator, was also a respected and highly regarded clubwoman. She never failed to uphold her end of a responsibility. She worked ceaselessly to promote club projects and interested herself along the way in younger women aspiring to achieve their particular goals. If a personal note may be pardoned, Mrs. Dunbar always took time from her busy schedule to write a note of congratulations when any honor came to the writer. She was that kind of woman.

Holyoke misses today the sparkle, verve, and resourcefulness Helen Dunbar brought to any circle in which she moved or any project she saw fit to sponsor.

Mrs. Dunbar's daughter Helen A., wife of Thomas F. Hughes lives today at Central Park Drive; her son Dr. Charles R. Dunbar, Jr. is an orthopedic surgeon in New York City. Her grandchildren, five in number, include Thomas, Christine, and Charles Hughes, Charles T. and Katherine Dunbar.

Helen R. Dunbar will long be remembered as a genius in the world of business administration, an organizational giant, and a good and true woman.

Holyoke is not a city where through the years women have served automobile agencies as car



MRS. CHARLES (Helen Clark) DUNBAR

salesladies. One of the first and few able to invade that field was the late Jean Moir Lawrence who joined Magna Buick in the capacity of stenographer and bookkeeper back in the days when the agency was located on Division and Railroad Streets. Later, when the Company moved to Northampton and Dwight Streets, Mrs. Lawrence became an automobile saleslady and succeeded quite well in a field which was then, and is today, a business almost entirely dominated by men.

Another field in which Holyoke women achieved and are still achieving is the florist trade. From pre 1900 days when one of Holyoke's early florist teams, Mr. and Mrs. Howland, opened a retail flower business right down to the living present, a significant number of the city's florists have been women.

Miss Nellie Nolan, one of the city's really great flower ladies went to work for the Howlands at the awesome age of ten. Under the tutelage of Mrs. Howland, she learned the trade and upon Mr. Howland's retirement, at his request, she took over the business. Miss Nolan at this time was still in her teens. With only a fifth grade education and no money, she met the challenge.

The Nolan shop was originally at 494 Dwight Street; in later years it was moved to Suffolk Street. Its proprietor was the first Holyoke woman to have owned and operated a competitive retail floral business on her own.

The story of this courageous woman parallels that of Mrs. J. J. FitzGibbons and Mrs. Abbey Cray. She went into business with little or no capital, but, through hard work and ceaseless effort she built a florist trade second to none.

Miss Nolan is said to have been a shrewd business woman - careful, thrifty, and alert. Her work was all-consuming; she had but little time for outside social activities. She was, however, one of the founders of the original St. Elizabeth's Circle of Holyoke Day Nursery. With Miss Nolan, service to God, family, and business took precedence over all else.

Miss Nellie Nolan died in 1935. Hers is a story of fortitude, persistence, and diligence. Her life can well serve as an inspiration to others, especially the economically deprived.

Miss Sarah H. Clark, popularly known as Sally Clark, started in the florist trade in 1912 at the age of seventeen. In 1917 she established her business at Dwight Street where it is now located. It is, she explains, the only one of its kind in Holyoke for she designed the building herself. It is old English, small, quaint, and inviting. It reflects something of the personality of this kindly and creative woman.

Miss Clark is one who meets her public with simplicity and grace. She enjoys helping people. Whether it be in times of sadness or gladness, she gives the customer the impression that to be of service is a privilege.

Miss Clark was the first florist to be represented in Quota Club, of which she is a Charter Member. She also enjoys membership in Robert Morris Chapter, Eastern Star, Holyoke Women's Club, Caledonian Women's Auxiliary, Business and Professional Women's Club, American Society of Florists, and Holyoke Chamber of Commerce.

"I wouldn't live anywhere else but Holyoke", Miss Clark says, "I like the people. Over the past



MISS SALLY CLARK

sixty years in business, I have made a multitude of valuable friendships.”

Holyoke on this historic one-hundredth salutes Sally Clark for the service she has rendered this city the past sixty years.

The incomparable Lucey Hickey - newspaperwoman, politician, and florist - reigned in the floral trade as owner and operator of her own shoppe for a goodly number of years. The flower establishment she managed still bears her name though its original owner has been deceased since 1951.

Miss Hickey and politics were inseparable. An ardent Democrat, she spent a large share of her life promoting the Democratic Party, its candidates and its causes, at state and national levels.

It has been said of Lucey Hickey's flair for politics, “She plays the game with great integrity. She permits no tricks. She has never permitted any political profits to herself. She has been satisfied to help ambitious and able men to leadership.”⁽⁴⁾

Her involvement in the political arena brought on many a tempest in the teapot, but Miss Hickey seemed to weather all. Though quick to take people to task, she was the more admired for it.

Lucey Hickey's first selected career was that of a news reporter. She worked in this capacity with unusual success for several years. It has never been quite clear why she decided to abandon the newspaper field.

She opened her flower shop in 1913. In her new occupation she found happiness and satisfac-

(4) Holyoke Transcript-Telegram Special Edition, 1949. P. 17.



MRS. HELEN GORDON

tion. She enjoyed an excellent trade, so much so that she employed several assistants. Her shop was unique in that it was a center of small *tete-a-tetes* on the subject of politics and parties. Conversation was never wanting in Lucey Hickey's store. Business, however, was never affected; it was probably improved because of this.

Miss Hickey was a keen woman and highly sensitive to human needs. Her contributions to the welfare of this city cannot be underestimated.

As the world was brought closer to home with the invention of radio, television, and new modes of transportation, travel increased commensurately and the need for the "Travel Agency" emerged. Helen Walsh Gordon, deceased in 1968, was one of but a few women to own and operate a travel service in this city in the past quarter century. In her chosen field she was most successful.

Helen Gordon's success stemmed from her own pleasing personality, an unusual interest in travel and a love for exploring realms of the unknown. She was an innovator in her time, long before the word itself became a popular term. She

pioneered in a field in which few women had ventured and achieved mastery of a business that grew more and more competitive with the changing years.

Mrs. Gordon traveled widely herself, read copiously, and lived life to the fullest along the way. She was as successful in homemaking as she was in business.



Lt.-Gov. Donald R. Dwight Presenting the American Cancer Society Award to Mrs. Marie-Reine (Grenier) Pafik

Mrs. Gordon earned a B.S. from Smith College and a Master's from Columbia University. Intelligent, knowledgeable, and conscientious, she met all problems head on and saw to it that people who came to her for service or guidance would get the best she could give. As a Quotarian, Helen Gordon worked ceaselessly, to promote club projects and scholarships. The writer who served on several committees with Mrs. Gordon can attest to her hospitality, generosity and capability. Her life style was to help where help was needed most.

It has been said of Helen Gordon that she believed in living each moment to the fullest, never wasting time if waste could be avoided. She lived her philosophy. Helen Walsh Gordon served Holyoke well.

Mrs. John (K. Loretta) Fitzgerald, also in travel service, was employed as an executive in the World Wide Travel Agency for twenty-five years. During the first thirteen she served in the capacity of assistant manager; from 1959 to 1971 as General Manager of the Agency. She was one of only two women in the northeast to achieve a position of such high stature. In 1971 she became the company's consultant and director, posts she holds at the present time.

Mrs. Fitzgerald is a native of Holyoke, a graduate of Holyoke High School and Northampton Commercial College. A bright, hard-working, well-spoken woman, she was aptly suited to the rigorous tasks of organizing, planning, and operating a travel bureau.

When queried as to her interest in this particular occupation, Mrs. Fitzgerald replied, "It is a unique, fascinating, and rewarding career. It never

gets monotonous. It keeps one active, alert, and aware, it is rewarding in that people are the end products of the service we offer.”

Loretta Fitzgerald never stinted on service beyond the regular business day. She has identified herself consistently with United Fund, the Chamber of Commerce, and, until recently, the Massachusetts Safety Officers Association. Her work for AAA in the cause of public safety has received statewide acclaim. She was one, too, who cooperated wholeheartedly with the writer to promote better safety programs in Holyoke's elementary schools. Mrs. K. Loretta Fitzgerald is an asset to any establishment.

Henry Ford once remarked, “Business needs more of the professional spirit.” A woman who has been able to combine professionalism with business, Mrs. Marie-Reine Grenier Pafik, (Mrs. Edmund Pafik) came to this country from Canada when she was five years old. She attended Precious Blood Grammar School, Holyoke High, Hudson Shore Labor School, and Springfield Comptometer School.

Mrs. Pafik operated the Trading Post, an outstanding gift shop in this city for upwards of twenty years. Those who remember the shop well will attest to its many choice gifts and the graciousness of its owner.

Interest in the liquidation and appraisal of estates prompted her to undertake training in that field. Today, Mrs. Pafik is one of a limited number of women able to appraise and liquidate large estates.

To this occupation, she brings high professionalism because of prior experience as an

importer and vendor of choice gifts - ceramics, china, stationery, floral arrangements, and artifacts.

When asked about her life style, Mare Pafik unhesitatingly replied, "I believe in hard work and self-discipline. Given a job I set a goal, work hard, and try to hit the top."

Marie Pafik has hit the top not only in her business career but in her charitable interests as well. For three years she chaired Holyoke's Cancer Drive. Through the organization of special projects in art, etc., she raised thousands of dollars in one day. Mrs. Pafik is also active in clubs: Quota, Providence Hospital Guild and Aid Association, Holyoke Unit of the American Cancer Society, and the Holyoke Chamber of Commerce.

Mrs. Pafik is of the opinion that Holyoke cannot rally until people begin to think positively. She served her country as a Wave in World War II and is strong in her belief that our country, too, can rally if a strong effort is made "to clean our own house first."

Mrs. Marie-Reine Grenier Pafik is spreading beauty and light as she walks among us.

There is scarcely a field of business that women have not invaded these past one-hundred years, some to a greater or lesser extent than others. In Holyoke today there are at least two female attorneys engaged in the active practice of law, the first of whom will be included in this section; the second, in another.

Miss Florence M. Woods was one of Holyoke's first women attorneys. She has been practicing

business law in this city for forty years. Currently she is, and for the major share of her life has been, associated with the John H. Woods, Co., Inc., Realtors, a firm widely known and respected in this community. Miss Woods handles, with expertise, legal aspects of the realty business, especially legalities connected with the buying and selling of property: mortgaging, and title searching, - to cite but a few.

In her younger years Miss Woods was greatly involved in amateur theatrics. She was an extremely popular leading lady and frequently in demand for lead roles in dramatic productions of one kind or another. Florence Woods was always generous with her time, and never declined to lend a helping hand in drives for humanitarian causes. Whether it was to model in a style show, participate in a club soiree, or captain a drive, she accepted the task obligingly and graciously.

Miss Woods, a product of Holyoke Schools, University of Maryland, and Boston University is a credit to her family and her city.

Women have risen to the top in banking as have their sisters in the retail trades. It just took a little longer. Prior to 1900, women did not hold positions of significance in the banking field. Even today, almost three quarters of a century after the democratization of the high school, and the rise of business colleges, the climb upward for women is still steep and difficult. Many women have served as tellers and clerks, but those who really aspired to top jobs have had to scale the ladder rung by rung. Be that as it may, Holyoke has had a number of women who "made it" in the banking field.

The four earliest women to have served this community in banking positions of stature include: Miss Grace Allison, secretary to the president, the old Home National Bank; Miss Cora Cleveland, Hadley Falls Trust, first woman safe deposit manager in New England and the first female assistant trust officer in a Holyoke banking establishment; Mrs. Maude Tacy Kennedy, Holyoke Savings, who served in several managerial posts; lastly, Miss Marjorie Green, assistant treasurer, Peoples Savings Bank.

Miss Green might well be called "Holyoke's Grand Lady of Banking." She spent fifty-two years in the business, probably serving longer than any other woman banker past or present. She joined Peoples Savings as a stenographer in 1910 following her graduation from high school. She also served as teller and bookkeeper before ascendancy to the position of assistant treasurer.

Customers who frequented Peoples Savings recall Miss Green's happy and willing service. Words most often used in describing Majorie Green are courteous, refined, patient and pleasant.

The great English Quaker and American colonist William Penn is credited with this statement, "Five things are requisite to a good officer - ability, clean hands, despatch, patience, and impartiality." No better tribute can be paid Miss Green than to say she possessed all five factors.

In the last twenty-five years more women have reached the top in banking than in any other one period in the past one hundred.

Miss Mary English, currently Branch Manager, Holyoke Savings Bank, has been active in banking

business for approximately nineteen years. A graduate of Holyoke High School and the American Institute of Banking, Miss English possesses the training and skill necessary to assume such a responsible managerial post. Here is a woman endowed with a gift for meeting people, one who has won the reputation of relating well to peers and public. She invites confidence and makes the bank's customers feel at home.

"My philosophy of life", Miss English wrote in answer to the writer's questionnaire, "is to work for the betterment of mankind."

Mary R. English, in addition to the high service she renders Holyoke Savings, is community involved as well. She has contributed countless hours of volunteer service to the Salvation Army. An award certificate from that organization attests to the high respect in which she is held by that group.

On women in today's world, Miss English believes that, despite set backs, women are advancing in their quest for equal pay for equal work. She is confident this goal will be achieved eventually.

As women began to achieve status in the world of work, more and more sought and found satisfaction in a business career. Miss Maude E. Keating, sister of William F. Keating, sports editor of Transcript-Telegram spent upwards of twenty years with Holyoke National Bank retiring from that institution early in 1973. She was private secretary to the late L. E. Gilman, President of Holyoke National for many years and at the time of her retirement she was the bank's assistant cashier.

Miss Keating, despite a busy working day, has found time to become involved in community ac-

tivities and some club work. She enjoys membership in Holyoke Chapter, National Association of Women Bank Officers, Society of Notaries of Washington, D.C., Holyoke Speakers Club, Friends of the Museum, and the National Council of Catholic Women.

Another woman who has risen to the heights in banking is Mrs. Helen Sheehan, assistant cashier at Holyoke National Bank. Mrs. Sheehan is proud to be in banking. "It's a peoples business," she explained, "and its goal is to serve the community."

Mrs. Sheehan has served both banking and the community for thirty-six years. Her background and training are impressive. She has studied at the School of Banking, Williams College; Graduate School of Banking, University of Wisconsin; also the American Institute of Banking. For three successive years she was recipient of the NABW Scholarship Award and has been published in the Journal of the National Association of Bank Women.

Mrs. Sheehan in speaking of women states firmly that she is not a "Liber". She believes that women have advanced and can advance through perseverance and hard work. Along with other women interviewed, Mrs. Sheehan is firm in her conviction that equal pay for equal work must be promoted.

Numerous women who have achieved or are now achieving stature in banking circles deserve recognition, yet space does not permit anything but brief plaudits for each. Miss Christine Brassil, bank officer, Hadley Falls Trust, only recently retired, was a tower of strength at that institution. Miss Brassil possessed a most pleasing personality,

a high public relations quotient, and a natural flair for meeting people. Men in banking rate Miss Brassil's service at Hadley Falls Trust as having been outstanding. Associated also with Hadley Falls Trust and held in high regard by bank and public are M. Helen Whitcomb, personnel officer, and Emma Caproni, first woman branch manager in this city. Emma Caproni is now married and resides in another community. Her sister, Mrs. Larry (Rita Caproni) Griffin was recently made branch manager of First Bank of Hampden County.

Miss Eileen Rabbitt held several positions of trust at Holyoke Savings where before moving on to other business had achieved the position of bank officer at that institution. She was one of the first women bankers connected with the promotion of school savings in this city. Norma J. Brigham, still another bank officer at Holyoke Savings has distinguished herself in several phases of banking, particularly mortgaging. France R. Lacoste of City Cooperative, rose to treasurer of that bank, an enviable post to which many women have aspired but few have reached.

More and more women are becoming branch managers: Theresa LaRoche of First Bank and Trust, and Linda Miller of Peoples Savings are fine individuals in high places of trust. Mrs. Miller was until recently secretary to the Executive Director of the Holyoke Chamber of Commerce for well over fifteen years.

Business management positions require unusual skill in handling personnel, particularly when individuals in that classification are not owners of the establishment. One who distinguished herself in personnel management was the late

Miss Mary E. Lucey, Holyoke native, who until her retirement was office manager of Highland Laundry, this city.

Mary E. Lucey possessed those personal qualities and attributes that make for potential leadership. Thirty years and more ago her services were greatly sought in social, civic, and political circles. Active in local and State Democratic Clubs, she organized volunteers "to get out the vote," and was instrumental, too, in bringing debatable issues to the fore for clarification and decision making. She was a member of the Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Electoral College in 1933 and was the first woman to become secretary to a Mayor (1926) in this city.

Miss Lucey was an articulate woman, one who could address herself to a subject with clarity, poise, and assurance. When she spoke, people listened. She was a first-class lady - warm, gracious, and kindly.

Miss Lucey's death at fifty-five terminated a life well on the way to greater achievements. She held membership in many clubs in all of which she was most active: Quota, Business and Professional Women's Club, Holyoke Women's Club, Speakers' Club, American Legion Auxiliary and the local American Legion Auxiliary. In the latter two she had served as president.

Miss Lucey was a homemaker as well. Her glass, fine china, and especially "her pitcher collection", brought joy to all privileged to see them.

Of Mary (May) Lucey it may be said, "Hers was a generous mind, and she used it nobly."



MARY ELIZABETH LUCEY

The broad category of real estate has to do with land and all pertaining to it. In this classification, too, women have distinguished themselves especially in the last twenty-five years of this historic one-hundredth.

One of the first in the real estate field was Teresa Driscoll. She started in the business well over seventeen years ago and today has offices in Holyoke and Fairview.

Mrs. Driscoll, native of Holyoke, sees her career in real estate to be service-oriented, in that it helps people. Trying to find suitable homes for her clientele involves sharing time, patience, and energy if adequate adjustment is to be insured.

She is a graduate of Holyoke High School and has attended the University of Alabama and Western New England College. As a business woman interested where Holyoke is going, she looks for change if Holyoke is to grow.

"I feel", she said, "that the city is going through a period of adjustment, but its future, nonetheless, looks bright."

The list of Holyoke's women realtors is long. It includes such well-known names as: Teresa Driscoll, Ruth Baldwin Rice, Muriel Satlawa, Helena R. Sawtell, Margaret Graham, Mary L. Dillon, Anita M. Drapeau, and others with whom the writer is not acquainted.

Helena Sawtell who has been in the business for upwards of sixteen years enjoys the occupation mainly because of the opportunity it affords her to meet all kinds of people.

Mrs. Sawtell is a native of this city. She was graduated from Holyoke High School and Bay Path

Institute. In addition to her primary business, real estate, she does interior decorating on what she calls "a modest scale." Her goal in life is simple, she related. "It is to put my best efforts forward so that with God's help I may continue to perform well."

The busier people are, the more involved they seem to become in community life. Mrs. Sawtell is a case in point. She's a charter member and vice-chairman of the P.M.'ers of the Greater Holyoke Chamber of Commerce, former Director of Quota Club, and has held at various times offices in the Holyoke Board of Realtors. She has participated actively in drives on behalf of the United Fund, the Cancer Crusade, and the March of Dimes.

Mrs. Sawtell looks forward to an upsurge in Holyoke business and believes revitalization is sorely needed in this city at this point in time.

Mrs. Muriel Satlawa is another successful realtor who along with ability for buying and selling is also a portrait artist. She has been in the realty business for thirteen years.

Mrs. Satlawa speaks feelingly of her occupation. "It seems God's guidance is more readily visible in this business than any other", she offered. "I have sold property where a child has been killed, where the mother was dying of cancer, where there were births, deaths, divorces, transfers, promotions. It can be exciting or tragic, but it could never be less than fascinating."

Muriel Satlawa is a product of H. B. Lawrence Jr. High, an honor graduate of Holyoke High School, and a 1940 graduate of the Realtors' Institute.

Her stature in the world of Real Estate is indisputable. In 1964 Muriel Satlawa was the recipient of the Massachusetts Award for Classified Advertising; in 1965, the New York Times Award for Best Classified Advertising by a New England Realtor; in 1969 she was voted the Multiple Listing Champion of the year; in 1971 she won the Million Dollar Round Table Award; in 1972 she was voted Realtor of the Year by the Board of Holyoke Realtors. So we could go on. Space, however, does not permit the listing of the many honors this capable woman has achieved.

Mrs. Satlawa believes that Holyoke is today experiencing mercantile and industrial change, but change, she feels certain, will produce a more improved total product.

Both Mrs. Sawtell and Mrs. Satlawa look to the future with optimism tempered by realism; in any event, they have faith in and hope for the future of Holyoke.

Until comparatively recently the number of women in public accounting has not been significant. Ann Cronin Hewitt, wife of Harvey Hewitt, was one of the first in the field. Prior to her death in 1964 she was secretary and partner in the Hewitt Accounting Firm for many years.

Ann Hewitt, Holyoke born and educated, was a tremendous booster of the city of her birth and an outstanding leader of women. Because of her organizational ability she rose to positions of prominence in the several clubs with which she was associated. Mrs. Hewitt was twice president of Business and Professional Women's Club, President of Holyoke Women's Club, Director of Walnut Street Settlement and Director of Civilian Defense,

Holyoke in World War II. Mrs. Hewitt was also a participating member of the Holyoke Chamber of Commerce. She was exceptionally kindly, along the way, to younger women (among whom was the writer) urging them to aspire to complete fulfillment of self that they might be helpful to others.

The writer never knew Ann Cronin Hewitt to turn down a worthy cause. Hers was a cooperative, energetic, enthusiastic nature. Though her business role was that of the sophisticated lady in the gray flannel suit, her community role was that of zealous and enthusiastic promoter of causes.

Mrs. Marian Brooks, in speaking of her mother remarked, "Mother had an abiding interest in people . . . She had, too, a sympathetic ear for everyone's troubles and sought a solution for every impasse."

All who knew Mrs. Harvey Hewitt respected and admired her magnetic personality and her ability to get things done. She was a woman of action and her good deeds will vibrate in eternity.

A young woman of stature in today's world of accounting is Bernice R. Kalicka, who is established with her husband in the firm of Joseph D. Kalicka and Company, Certified Public Accountants. Mrs. Kalicka attended Holyoke Schools and the University of Vermont. She has worked in public accounting for twenty years and finds the work challenging and rewarding. Beyond that, she explains, the opportunities to meet people are ever present. Like all busy women, the day, she finds, is just not long enough. Between office and community involvements, life moves forward at a steady and startling pace. Withal, Mrs. Kalicka believes that to live and help others live requires participation.

Mrs. Kalicka is an active participant in civic, charitable, and religious groups. She has served at various times as president and treasurer of Hadassah; president of Highland PTA; Board of Directors, Holyoke Hospital Aid Association, Girl Scouts, Sisterhood Rodphey Sholom Synagogue, Holyoke Hebrew School, and Jewish Community Center. She is also a Charter Member of the Massachusetts C.P.A. Wives' Club.

Holyoke, Mrs. Kalicka believes, is very much in need of revitalization at this point in its history. She has hope, however, that needed revitalization will begin soon, and she looks for women to play a significant role in the city's future.

Mrs. Joseph Kalicka, though involved daily in the business world, has never lost her femininity. She handles with high personal charm and grace everything she undertakes - whether it be business, homemaking, or community affairs.

Alice C. Rychlik, a graduate nurse, is also a certified public accountant. She has been in the latter business for twenty-one years. Though presently associated with the Accounting Firm of George A. Baume, her goal is to operate, someday, her own accounting business.

Alice Rychlik, South Hadley native, is a graduate of Holyoke High School and Holyoke Hospital School of Nursing. Work in accounting was undertaken at Holyoke Community College. Though still a young looking woman, Mrs. Rychlik is mother of three children and grandmother to five.

Mrs. Rychlik identifies with a number of community projects but her greatest efforts have

been extended in behalf of Mater Dolorosa parish. She organized the original church system designed to liquidate the debt on Mater Dolorosa school and convent. In addition to many projects undertaken for the parish, she also served as treasurer of the original Confraternity of Christian Doctrine Board of Holyoke and held that office for eight years.

When queried about Holyoke's hopes for the future, Mrs Rychlik was optimistic. This city, she believes, has the ability to meet whatever contingencies may arise. In her opinion, with more people to people participation, nothing should prevent the city from moving forward to meet the challenges of the new day.

The Misses Mary A. and Cecilia O'Donnell, sisters, were among Holyoke's first women to reach the top in the New England Telephone Company. Both were born in Holyoke and educated in the elementary and secondary schools of St. Jerome Parish. Immediately following high school, they joined the Telephone Company as operators. From that point on, they scaled the heights in positions rarely achieved by women of their day. Their combined service with the Telephone Company totals upwards of eighty-two years.

Miss Mary O'Donnell, a delightful personality, has been one to meet people warmly, easily and graciously. It was undoubtedly her high public relations quotient coupled with conscientious service that resulted in steady promotions through the years. From operator she was promoted to Supervisor in the Holyoke office. Success was quickened after she next assumed the position of Chief Operator in Northampton. From that post, she became Western Division Personnel Supervisor,

involving responsibility for a territory that covered Worcester, Western Massachusetts, and all of the state of Vermont.

When the new telephone office was built in Holyoke, Miss O'Donnell assumed the role of decorator. She it was who selected the colors and decor of the Maple Street offices and powder rooms.

Mary O'Donnell retired in 1957 after forty-four years of service with New England Telephone. She has been for years a member of Quota Club and was a charter member of the Business and Professional Women's Club. Although not as active in club work as she was in more energetic years, she is still one who will always help where she can. That spirit is typical of Mary A. O'Donnell, a great business woman and a fine lady.

Cecilia I. O'Donnell's career matches that of her sister's. Her ascendancy to the top began with her first promotion from operator to service representative in the Holyoke business office. The next promotion was to supervisor of the Springfield business office. By the time she retired in 1965, after forty-two years of service, she had served ultimately as Division Instructor and Division Training Supervisor.

A cheerful and outgoing person, Cecilia O'Donnell was a popular administrator. Both Mary and Cecilia O'Donnell enjoyed the confidence of management, the respect of workers, and the support of devoted family and friends.

Insurance agencies in this city and elsewhere are usually managed by men. One who owned and operated her own insurance agency was the late Leocadia Rabinski, deceased but short months ago

at the age of seventy-nine. She was the only woman of her ethnic background in Holyoke to rise to the top in this particular occupation. Miss Rabinski worked at the business until but a few hours prior to her death.

Leocadia Rabinski was not a native of Holyoke but did spend most of her life here. She operated her business on Dwight Street for upwards of twenty-five years. During that period she earned the respect of peers and competitors.

Measured by the best of standards, Miss Rabinski was a leader of stature within and without the Holyoke community. Though in appearance she was a seemingly quiet and unassuming person, she really possessed considerable ability to organize and execute.

Leocadia Rabinski founded the Polannaise Ball, a delightful "coming out" affair for young ladies of Polish ancestry. She was exceptionally active in community groups and served as an officer in several. She was president of the Polish American Congress of Western Massachusetts, Honorary President of Council 28, Polish Women's Alliance, and President of Holyoke Home Information Council. Miss Rabinski was also a corporate member of the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Miss Rabinski, who was a graduate of Massachusetts State College, held several positions in business before she became manager of her own. Following college graduation she worked as a teller at Holyoke National Bank for several years and served also for a time as receptionist for the late Dr. Frank FitzGibbon. It had been her dream to operate, one day, a business of her own. She not

only achieved that goal but succeeded in it beyond expectation.

One of Holyoke's first women to operate a drug store was Miss Grace M. O'Connor, Holyoke born and educated. The O'Connor Pharmacy was located at the northwest corner of Essex and High Streets. This was a calm, quiet, unassuming lady who operated her establishment with amazing success for well over forty years. She was the first, or one of the first women pharmacists registered in this Commonwealth.

Miss O'Connor's business slogan was, "Do the fair thing by all." Older Holyokers recall she did just that. Now in retirement for well over two decades, she reminisces on things as they were when Holyoke was a vital, growing, and thriving metropolis.

Another who has distinguished herself in the pharmaceutical business is Miss Doris Martin who today, with her brother Edgar, operates what was and continues to be a family affair, the Martin Pharmacy, Inc., located on Hampden Street in the Highlands. In 1892 Miss Martin's father established the business which has since his death passed to daughter and son. Miss Doris Martin is currently Treasurer of the corporation; Mr. Edgar Martin, President.

Always a methodical and systematic person, Miss Martin has proved to be an invaluable asset to the store. Reserved and business-like, she meets customers with the air of one who knows exactly what she is about.

Doris Martin is a Holyoke native and a member of First Congregational Church. She was graduated from Holyoke High School and Cornell

University, class of 1920. She has spent approximately a half century in the drug business. In that period the store has expanded considerably; it still remains, however, chiefly a neighborhood establishment serving the needs of people in the area.

It has been said that the Martins know all Highlanders by name, except perhaps newcomers to Ward VII.

On this the One Hundredth Anniversary of Holyoke as a city, the Martin Drug Store, and its co-owner, Miss Doris Martin, are tendered a special tribute!

Women innkeepers have not been many in Holyoke. Those in the business, however, have brought honor and fame to their respective establishments. Mrs. Edna Spies Williams has been in quality restaurant business for more than a quarter of a century. She is the daughter of Milton S. and Edna S. Fountain Spies, prominent citizens of this community fifty years ago. Her father, one of Holyoke's leading merchants, was probably, in his time, the city's most successful tailor, of whom it was said,

"His trade is in every way of the highest class . . . and Mr. Spies is recognized as one of the leading merchants of Holyoke."⁽⁵⁾

The writer's father knew him well, and spoke often of Mr. Spies as a most generous and charitable man. The same could be said of his daughter, Edna, whose untold charities to the poor, depressed, and lonely have been legion.

Edna Spies Williams is deeply spiritual by nature, a warm, kindly, and understanding woman.

(5) Encyclopedia of Biography, American Historical Society, 1916, p. 109.

Though engaged in management of the Log Cabin, a thriving dining establishment, she is never so engrossed that she cannot make time to extend to diners a genuine word of welcome. She gives the impression, too, that nothing is too much trouble, hence she has endeared herself to all who know her.

Mrs. Eugene P. (Kate Kavanagh) Tamburi is another who, with her husband, has been in the inn-keeping business since 1947, approximately. She is assistant to her husband in his operation of the Yankee Pedlar Inn, one of the city's several interesting hostelry establishments. Mrs. Tamburi's managerial function is to see that everything moves along smoothly for the many guests who visit the Inn daily.

A woman who takes everything in stride, Mrs. Tamburi is admirably suited to the demands of her occupation. She moves about her business quietly and efficiently. Her fine sense of the fitness of things, her keen ability to recognize a problem, and her appreciative awareness of quality - all tend to keep the Inn the handsome and hospitable establishment it has been for the past quarter of a century.

Mrs. Tamburi was born in Holyoke and was educated in St. Jerome's schools. She has been active in the Guild of St. Agnes for many years. Currently Mr. Tamburi is serving on the Centennial Steering Committee. Both are involved in the social and business life of the Holyoke community.

Miss Bess Stathis has been an innkeeper at Holyoke's famous Yankee Pedlar for twenty-two years. She is a graduate of Holyoke High School and Westfield State College. Though she did not



MISS BESS STATHIS

train to be an innkeeper, she comes by her talent naturally. Her father owned and operated a small restaurant for years.

Miss Stathis is a well educated young woman. She is a product of Holyoke's public schools and holds a Baccalaureate Degree from Westfield State College.

Miss Stathis enjoys innkeeping for the interest it affords per se and the people with whom she comes in contact daily. Innkeeping, she explains, is a stimulating and invigorating experience. She is an enthusiast about many things: golf, travel, reading, the theatre, and Greek Civilization.

Bess Stathis serves on several Boards in the Holyoke community: Parks and Recreation Commission, Chamber of Commerce, Holyoke Hospital, and Peoples Saving Bank, as a Corporator. She is a member of the National Honor Society and has been included in Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities.

Miss Stathis is an active member of the Greek Orthodox Church, a student of Greek civilization, and extensively community involved.

A woman with the grit and stamina of Abbey Cray was Mary Ann O'Connell, who with her husband Peter operated a lunch cart business in Holyoke before and after the turn of the century. Few are alive today who would remember the lunch carts that first began to grace Holyoke's streets eighty-five years ago.

The carts in themselves were unique. Horse drawn vans they were whose panels were imprinted with the captions, NIGHT LUNCH on one side, and THE MAYFLOWER on the other. Interiors were heaped high with sandwiches, small pies, various other snacks and soft drinks. Chicken sandwiches sold for five cents a piece; half-saucer pies for the same amount.

The O'Connells lived at 127 Pine Street. Their properties consisted of a house, barn, cookhouse, and plank driveway. Mrs. O'Connell prepared the food to be sold; her husband supervised the manning of the carts. There were three carts in all. These were stationed daily at the corner of Essex and High Street, Lyman and High, and Dwight and Maple - focal points of Holyoke's business district at the time. Business hours ranged from 4:00 in the afternoon to 2:30 in the morning.

The O'Connells had nine children. Despite a large and growing family, Mrs. O'Connell carried on a time-consuming business, raising a fine family along the way. She did both with seeming ease and without complaint.

Mr. O'Connell died in 1904 at the age of forty-four when the youngest child was but six years of age. Mary Ann O'Connell, stalwart that she was, immediately sought new means to insure adequate family support. She launched a catering business and in that, too, she achieved considerable success. Her catering was of such quality that year after year she serviced the same individuals and groups, in addition to securing new customers.

Income from catering was supplemented by the food concession at Holyoke Country Club run by Mary Ann O'Connell almost to the time of death. She also opened and operated Holyoke High's first cafeteria service.

This extraordinary woman during her busy lifetime served as Chief Ranger of Isabella Court 112, and was actively engaged through the years in organizing new Courts for the Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters. She identified with several Catholic charitable organizations as Brightside, the Orphans' Aid Society, and the Ladies Catholic Benevolent Society.

Mrs. O'Connell, a warmhearted and generous lady, gave of her food to the poor and helpless and supplied chicken broth gratis to Providence Hospital in the days when her lunch cart business was in operation.



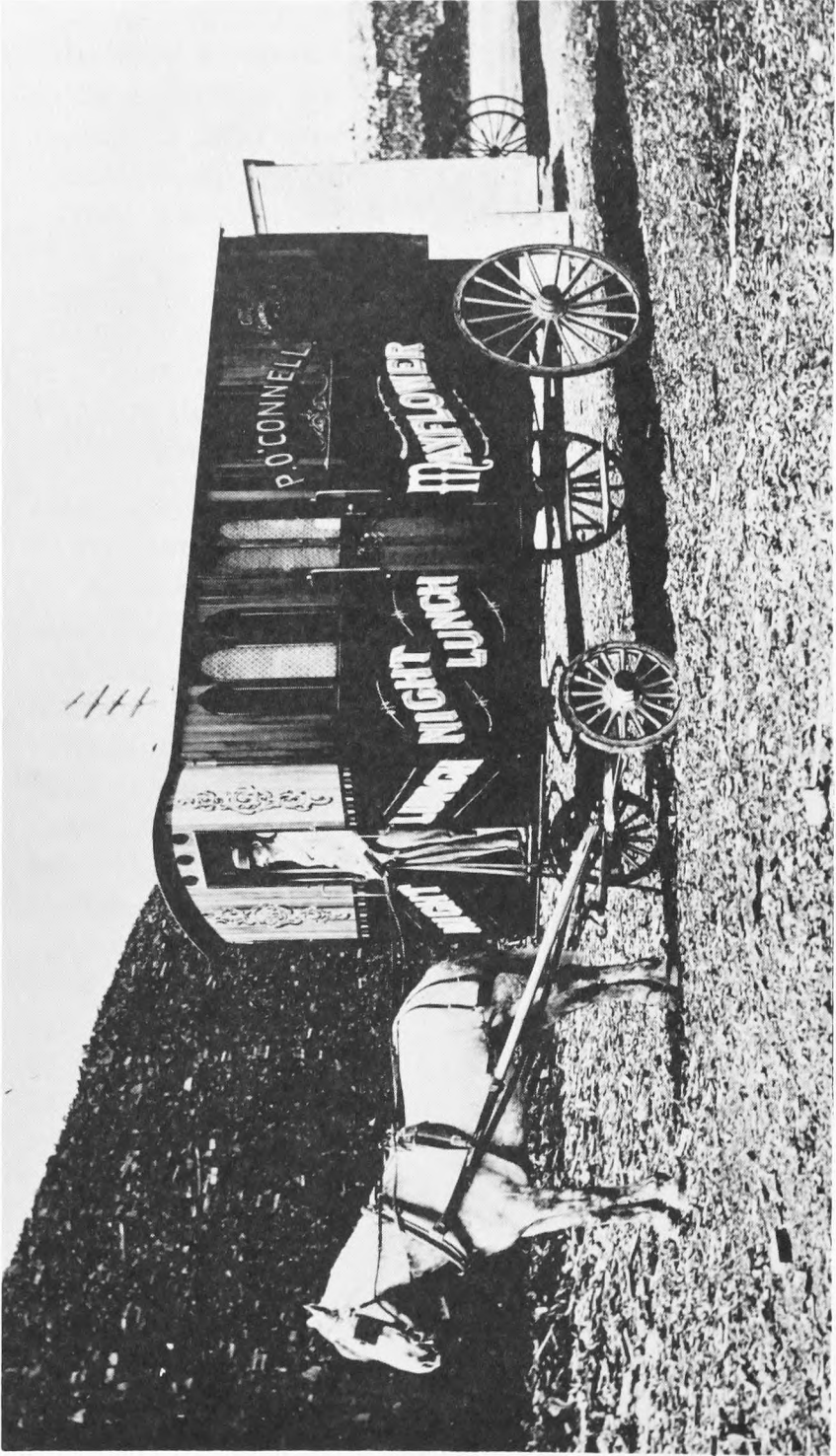
MRS. PETER A. (Mary Ann Harrahy) O'CONNELL

There are those among us yet who will recognize by name and deed the nine children born to Peter and Mary Ann O'Connell. Those living include: Mrs. Arthur (Mary E.) Ryan, Samuel M., Harold P., and Raymond M. O'Connell; those deceased, George V., Mrs. George J. (Gertrude L.) Learmonth, Mrs. Eugene (Helen T.) Moriarty, J. Frank, and James B. O'Connell. These men and women were tremendously involved in their day in the life and growth of the Holyoke community.

Mary Ann and Peter O'Connell will long be remembered as innovators in business in the days when Holyoke was young and untried.

Among successful descendants of Peter and Mary O'Connell (and there are many) one, Mary Ann O'Connell, granddaughter, has distinguished herself as secretary to Colonel James W. Kehoe, Commander of the 905th Tactical Airlift, Westover Air Force Base. Miss O'Connell holds the honor of being the first Certified Professional Secretary in the greater Holyoke area. In 1967, in competition with other qualified candidates, she was named Secretary of the Year, an award coveted among members of the professional secretarial group.

Miss O'Connell has served as president of Holyoke Chapter, NSA and has been appointed to several special committees in that organization. She is active also in the Pioneer Valley Business and Professional Women's Club, Providence Hospital Guild, and Father Damien Circle, St. Agnes Guild, Holyoke Day Nursery. Her community activities involve volunteer service for the Bay State Easter Seal Campaign, Providence Hospital and Springfield Symphony Orchestra.



The Lunch Cart of Peter and Mary Ann O'Connell, circa 1888

The tourist-home trade never seemed to be a popular enterprise in Holyoke, but one woman did venture into it and met with success. Mrs. Joseph Chevalier, nee Marie Louise (Amerilda) DeRoy, a leader in Franco-American circles in Western Massachusetts most of her life, operated a tourist home at 2049 Northampton Street between 1941 and 1946. She purchased the Hugo Friedrich house, vacant at the time, and converted it into a tourist haven known as the Merilda Tourist Home. It is said to have been the first of its kind in this city and is still in operation today under a different name.

Mrs. Chevalier, a native of Holyoke, was educated in the city's elementary schools. Except for a year's attendance at a private school in Matane, Quebec, Mrs. Chevalier was a self-made woman. It is all the more to her credit that she became a leader in the social, civic, and cultural life not alone here, but also in several communities adjacent to Holyoke. In 1952, she founded the Cercle des Grand 'Mamans, and served as first president of that organization. In 1953 she founded the Franco-American Women Voters Association which, according to a member of her family, became a powerful force in the political life of Chicopee where she lived in later years and until her death in 1973. At one time, too, from 1947 to 1949 Mrs. Chevalier served a term as President of the Cercle des Dames Francaises, a group dedicated to the promotion and maintenance of French culture.

Mrs. Chevalier was one of those rare individuals blessed with a penetrating mind and a keen insight into human nature. Almost everything she ventured was successful whether it was working at business, founding a new organization or

promoting interest in scholarships for the meritorious and needy.

The family of Mrs. Joseph Chevalier take justifiable pride in their mother's many accomplishments. Members include: Armand, Rita and Florence. Florence, a former professor at Anna Maria College in Paxton, is today Sister Florence Marie Chevalier, S.S.A.

Mrs. Chevalier was matriarch of the DeRoy family of this city. Many Holyokers will remember her close relatives because of their civic prominence: Amedee DeRoy brother, World War I hero, after whom the park adjacent to the West Street School was named; Oscar DeRoy, also a brother, former Alderman from Ward I and former State Representative; Mrs. Linda Miller, a niece, manager of the South Street Branch of Peoples Savings Bank. A third brother Ernest, has served several terms as Representative from Chicopee.

Mrs. Chevalier lived a full and meaningful life and she was every inch a queen to her people. The Roman, Virgil, remarked on occasion, "They can conquer who believe they can." Mrs. Marie Louise Chevalier believed she could, and she did.

Holyoke has had many self-made women who achieved high places mainly on their own initiative and merit. Mary U. McGrath was one of these. Following graduation from Holyoke High School in 1901, and study at Northampton Secretarial School in 1902, she joined the Holyoke Water Power Company in 1903.

Mary McGrath spiralled to the top, at Holyoke Water Power Company, rising from office worker to Assistant Clerk of the Company, to Assistant Treasurer, and finally Clerk of the Company in

1943. She played a significant role in the history of HWP, as she was with with the Company in its early years and worked along with its steady expansion until the time of her retirement in 1952. She was held in great respect by officials of Holyoke Water Power Company; as reported to the writer, her opinions were often sought by the Company's management.

Miss McGrath had a keen sense of business deportment; her active successful years at the Water Power Company attest to this unusual ability. A reserved, dignified, and business-like woman, Mary McGrath was suited to the image the Water Power Company itself would wish its people to reflect. Often she brought the story of the Company's development to Quota and the Business and Professional Women's Club. She was a highly respected member of both. Always, her message was one of pride and glory in Holyoke's growth as witnessed in its industrial development.

Mary McGrath was dedicated completely to two main interests in life, her work and her family. She had a unique hobby, that of tracing the genealogy of her family. At the time of her death she had completed a family history through the fourth generation.

Mary McGrath's achievements at Holyoke Water Power Company should prove a source of inspiration to others.

Mary Cronin Judge (Mrs. Martin J.) and Louise Smith Trudeau (Mrs. Henry) were also women who owned and operated businesses usually run by men. Mrs. Judge before her marriage taught school; however, after she became widowed she assumed the management of her husband's firm

the Judge Paper Company, which became eventually Judge and Greenough.

Though untrained in business affairs, Mrs. Judge had a natural inclination for business matters. During her connection with the Company she enjoyed the reputation of being a fine and fair partner. She had a good sense of humor which helped considerably when the going was not easy.

Mary Cronin Judge was a member of the Business and Professional Women's Club and had risen to the presidency of that group. She was most active in the Club as was her sister Mrs. Harvey Hewitt. Both were keen, generous, and popular business women who, in their day, were tremendous community leaders.

Mrs. Henry (Louise Smith) Trudeau managed a hay, grain, seed and cement business in Holyoke for a number of years. She was a totally committed person with a lively interest in the social and political life of the city.

Mrs. Trudeau's special charities knew no bounds. She gave generously of time and money to church, clubs, agencies and drives. As a popular and conscientious Quotarian she never failed to support that group's charitable causes. She was also a member of the Chamber of Commerce and was a member of its Board of Directors.

Louise Smith Trudeau had what the French call "bel esprit", a fine wit. Ever cheerful and outgoing, she acquired during her lifetime a wide circle of business and professional friends.

Mrs. Judge has been deceased since 1968; Mrs. Trudeau since 1961.

Women have aspired to and have been successful in a variety of different classifications in business and industry. Jean P. Kyte, has been for eight years Manager of General Consumer Products. Though she did not come to Holyoke until 1955, she has spiraled to the top after having served in a variety of clerical positions.

Miss Kyte's forte embraces general economics and marketing. Her studies at Harvard-Radcliffe, Holyoke Community College, Sir George Williams College, Montreal, and the University of Michigan have prepared her well for her present post.

Miss Kyte has distinguished herself through public relations and product releases and through editing the company magazine. She is or has been associated with the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators, London, England; American Society of Corporate Secretaries, New York; also Holyoke Business and Professional Women's Club as member and President (1968-70). Miss Jean Kyte is listed in Two Thousand Women of Achievement (Cambridge, England) and Who's Who of American Women (U.S.A.).

Alma M. Honey, recently deceased, was another Holyoke native who spent a lifetime in the business world. Miss Honey was a graduate of Holyoke's public schools and Simmons College. She was secretary to her father who owned the Eureka Blank Book Company for several years and secretary of Holyoke Red Cross for twenty-five years.

Miss Honey had unusual creative ability in writing and in Music. In the early years of the century she not only had short stories published but music privately printed. One of her short stories

appeared in the old Top Notch Magazine (Street and Smith's).

Few Holyoke women have made a life-long business of public stenography. One who has for a goodly number of years is Miss Elizabeth Dillon, known by her closest friends as "Bess". Miss Dillon has achieved success as a public stenographer mainly because of the quality of work she produces and the speed with which she can complete assignments.

A Holyoke native, Miss Dillon is vitally interested in Holyoke and its people. As a most active Quotarian, she has chaired numerous committees in behalf of the Club's service work. When president of the Club, and Governor of Fourth District, Quota International, she devoted long hours to involving the club's membership in projects designed to aid special charities and scholarships.

Business-like, pleasant, and gracious, she is highly respected in both business and social circles. Miss Dillon has traveled widely, and she has been most generous in sharing her experiences with others.

Elizabeth Dillon lives with her two sisters, Catherine, a retired teacher, and Eleanor, presently a teacher of Home Economics at John J. Lynch School.

Transportation is an unusual field for women, but this community has a lady who made a career of one of its most interesting phases. Miss Norma E. Sampson was a traffic representative with the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in Boston for twenty-three years. The duties of this intriguing position entailed the tracing, diverting, and expediting of all kinds of freight over wide geographic areas.

Miss Sampson spoke of her work as fascinating because of contacts with all kinds of people and the complicated situations apt to arise.

“I was responsible,” she explained, “for everything from tracing a lost shipment of tomatoes to expediting cargo from one point to another. Shipment of freight to and from Westover,” she went on, “was another operation for which I was accountable.”

Miss Sampson was educated at Walnut Hill, Smith College, Bay Path Business School, and Leland Powers School of Drama.

In her active days in transportation, Norma Sampson belonged to several clubs and associations connected with her work and held high offices in them prior to retirement in 1960. She was a charter member of Women’s Traffic Club of New England and served in its many offices at different points in time. Presently, she is the Club’s Honorary President. She has served also as President of Women’s Traffic Club of New England and was the only woman member of the National Committee on Research and Education of Association of Traffic Clubs 1956, ’57, ’58 and ’59.

To help others to enjoy life is Miss Sampson’s basic philosophy. She seems to live her credo. She has several hobbies which she delights in sharing with others. Among these are travel, photography, and research on covered bridges.

To be as fair as possible to everyone, and not to judge hastily or harshly, are the predominant principles by which Miss Sampson lives. It is highly probable that success in her chosen occupation stemmed, in large measure, from her belief in fairness and justice for all.

In retirement, Miss Sampson is still active. She is corresponding Secretary and Treasurer of Loomis House, Inc., and serves as treasurer of Connecticut Valley Congregational Club.

CHAPTER X

WOMEN IN COMMUNICATIONS

"In a great democracy such as ours, the outstanding need of the hour is greater information and greater tolerance. Sincere efforts at enlightenment and education by the press (and other media) are more important than self-appointed leadership."

- ROY W. HOWARD

The field of communications, broad and complicated as it is, ranges from oral and written language to vehicles through which both are channelled into home and society. The vehicles are several and different; in the main, however, they include radio, television, the press, films, filmstrips, books, and periodicals. In another sense, communication involves speech and printed talk.

Women in appreciable numbers have neither aspired to, nor have they been altogether successful in reaching the top in communications to the extent of their male counterparts. Those who have tried, and have made it, serve to prove that talent has no respect for gender. Male and female can compete and achieve provided they have initially the ability, training, and will required.

Two of Holyoke's first women to command extraordinary attention because of their achievements in the communications field were Mrs. Minnie R. Dwight and Mrs. Elizabeth Towne. As indicated elsewhere in this volume, Mrs. Dwight was Holyoke's grand lady of journalism. No Holyoker yet has been able to outdo her competency in that field. Whether as publisher, editor,

feature writer, or columnist - she was completely and inimitably at home with her role in each and all of them.

Mrs. Elizabeth Towne, founder of the Nautilus, accomplished in a different medium. She founded a magazine to promote a philosophy uniquely her own. She became an international figure through her cult and her magazine; she also succeeded through a particular channel of communication to make Holyoke a muchly visited community at her point in time. Records show that visitors came from all quarters of the globe to meet the woman whose universal imperative was, "God is Love."

Holyoke has had, in addition to such giants as Mrs. Dwight and Mrs. Towne, its fair share of women who achieved in one facet or another of the communications media.

Among the more successful social editors of the Transcript-Telegram was Mary Regina Kirkpatrick. "Rae", as she was popularly known, was a graduate of the School of Journalism at New York University. She joined the Transcript following War work in Washington, D.C. and remained with the paper for about twelve years.

Miss Kirkpatrick had wonderful contacts in the community. She was the kind of individual people liked to see coming - happy, easy-going, and sincere. The writer knew Rae Kirkpatrick well. She was an excellent newspaper woman. She never lacked copy. Being the person she was, her pen was never poisonous. Humanity with her was pleasingly sacred. As did Mrs. Dwight before her, she built people up; never tore them down.

Those who knew Miss Kirkpatrick will recall that she was generous with her time and effort for clubs and church groups. She often wrote news releases for charitable causes, bazaars, fairs and the like. Her services were much in demand for she wrote easily and well.

Miss Kirkpatrick was a long time member of the Business and Professional Women's Club, and served at one time as its president. An active Catholic laywoman, she was frequently in demand as a speaker for various church clubs, councils, and guilds.

Rae Kirkpatrick has been deceased since 1959. The Transcript-Telegram was the better because a woman of Mary Regina Kirkpatrick's ability and character had served its paper with excellence and honor. Her brother, Frank J., has been associated with the Gas and Electric Department most of his life.

Miss Katherine Murphy, sister of Richard J. Murphy, managing editor of the Transcript-Telegram brought a new look to the T-T when she rejoined the paper in the forties. Originally, she had begun her career in journalism with the Transcript, left to join a Springfield paper, and returned to Holyoke to become first editor of the woman's page. To her new assignment she brought fresh ideas, a change in format, and an entirely different perspective.

The woman's page created by Kay Murphy included a variety of items of interest to homemakers and career women - fashions, recipes, meal planning, furnishings, decorating, and seasonal living. All were reminiscent of Godey's Women's Magazine in modern format.

Miss Murphy made frequent trips to New York to preview the latest in seasonal fashions. On return, a chatty column or news feature of her experiences, plus a prediction of styles to come would be featured in colorful detail for her many readers. She was adroit in sensing what her public wanted or needed. She keyed the page to what homemakers and career girls should know to keep healthy, dress stylishly, and entertain graciously.

Popular as a speaker, she was in much demand by women's groups. Whenever she accepted engagements, she unfailingly brought a story with a message to willing listeners.

Though Miss Murphy has been retired from the paper for several years, her contributions through the woman's page have left an indelible imprint that neither time nor memory will erase.

Mrs. Eleanor L. Shea, current women's editor of the Transcript-Telegram, has endeared herself to the ladies of this community in the short two decades she has resided in the greater Holyoke area. For the past twelve years she has been Woman's Editor of the paper. Those who have come to know her work are unanimously of the opinion that Eleanor Shea has the gift.

She is a woman totally immersed in her occupation. Deeply interested in her work, and fascinated by people in their everyday doings, she tries in her own inimitable way to help where she can. A sincere and serious-minded woman, Mrs. Shea has promoted through the power of the press countless worthy causes. She has written myriad articles in behalf of fund raising, cultural causes and welfare projects. Whether the subject be United Fund, Cancer Drive, March of Dimes, the

arts, theatre or music, Eleanor Shea is at home with words. She expresses herself fluently and pleasingly. Women like to read what she writes.

Mrs. Shea, one who tends to look on the brighter side of life, expresses her credo in this way, "I truly believe in the overall goodness of people and try to direct my efforts toward the good things of life. My life goal," she states simply, "is to fulfill my obligations as wife, mother, Christian, and citizen."

Involvement in community affairs is with Mrs. Shea a challenge and a responsibility. She is a incorporator of Holyoke Hospital, and a Life Member of Holyoke Library and Museum. She was recently honored by the latter for dedicated service in its behalf. She has been the recipient of award certificates from the American Cancer Society, Holyoke Chapter of Hadassah, Sisterhood Rodphey Sholom, and Sisterhood Sons of Zion in recognition of promotions she spearheaded.

Mrs. Shea feels deeply about the Holyoke community. She believes it to be a unique city, a place where people are most often accepted for what they are, not who they are. She does not accept statements to the effect that Holyoke is a dying city. She is firm in her belief that Holyoke's people are determined to build a better community despite some pessimistic statements to the contrary.

In commenting upon America today, she said, "America to me is the most marvelous, generous, and compassionate nation the world has ever known. My faith in this country is undiminished and always will be."

Mrs. Shea's opinions on women in today's world are worthy of note. Women, she believes, are

a driving force in the community. They are, in her words, "the starters, the beginners - the ones who raise the money for scholarships and social needs; promote attendance and support churches. On civic, state, and national levels women are constantly proving their worth in heretofore forbidden areas."

Eleanor Shea, a native of New York City, is a graduate of Washington Irving High School, Grand Central School of Art and Packard School, all located in that city. She is listed in *Who's Who of American Women*.

Whether writing, painting, antique collecting, or furniture refinishing, Mrs. Eleanor Shea is at home with whatever she undertakes.

Andrew Carnegie, giant philanthropist, is known to have said, "I believe that the true road to preeminent success in any line is to make yourself master of that line."

Mrs. Eleanor Shea has met success not only because she has mastered the art of living; she has mastered the art of journalism as well.

One of the most able women to serve the Transcript-Telegram in the more recent past was Mrs. Richard (Anabel Burkhardt) Murphy. She brought to the paper sophistication, impersonality, and a penetrating mind. Hers was a facile pen and she used it to present the news in precise and readable style.

Following graduation from Vassar, where she majored in physics and minored in English, Mrs. Murphy joined the Transcript-Telegram and remained with the paper for thirty years. During that time, she moved from reporter to news editor,

accumulating along the way experience in several different phases of news coverage. Feature stories with a by-line, book, concert, play and current news reviews; editorials - all became familiar activities prior to assuming the position of news editor, a post but few women have had the opportunity to hold in this community or elsewhere. It was not, she told the writer, unusual to do a dozen editorials a week plus a feature story, and a review or two, for good measure.

Mrs. Murphy covered World War II news in feature articles and editorials both during the conflict and in the years immediately following its settlement. Foreign policy was another area to which she brought refined skill, particularly in the analysis and interpretation of events as they occurred.

Mrs. Dwight, publisher of the Transcript-Telegram, highly regarded Mrs. Murphy's talents as a newspaper woman. She had complete trust in her ability to do an assigned chore and spoke often of the precision, accuracy, and objectivity with which Anabel Murphy handled subject matter. Mrs. Dwight was of the opinion that Mrs. Murphy never veered from truth as she saw it, and she did not color facts or camouflage details.

After thirty years in journalism, Mrs. Murphy decided to embark on a second career. She enrolled in the graduate school of the University of Massachusetts to undertake studies for the Master's Degree. As Phi Beta Kappa from Vassar, other things being equal, her success was virtually assured. Currently, Mrs. Murphy is a member of the English Department of Holyoke Junior College where a strong educational background and solid experience in the newspaper field serve her well.

Mrs. Murphy, seemingly something of a practical idealist, has been identified with several projects designed to improve, in one respect or another, the tenor of living in this community. She was one of the first to work zealously for the establishment of a Child Guidance Clinic in Holyoke. She has been a strong supporter and member of NCCJ, the League of Women Voters, and the Junior League of Holyoke, Inc. She has been identified with the YWCA and has served on several of its more important Committees. She has promoted Red Cross, United Fund, and Children's Services. There is scarcely a social service agency in this city with which she has not been associated through the years.

In reviewing the status of Holyoke at this point in history, she spoke but briefly. Holyoke, Mrs. Murphy believes, is on the road to revitalization. She pointed out that one of the good things about the city is its size. Because it is a small complex, revitalization should be more readily accomplished.

In another vein, she spoke of Americans. It was her opinion that Americans have lost ground since World War II; the people, she remarked in substance, are too apathetic. Unless they re-awaken to their responsibilities, nothing of consequence will happen.

Mrs. Anabel (Burkhardt) Murphy's parents came to Holyoke from the midwest. The Burkhardt name has been prominent in the history of Holyoke for upwards of fifty years. Mrs. Murphy's husband, Richard J. Murphy, managing-editor of the Transcript-Telegram, is a veteran newsman and a highly respected member of the Fourth Estate.

The Murphys have two sons and one daughter:
Richard, George and Adelaide.



MRS. JOSEPH (Ella Merkel) DiCARLO

Another to reach the pinnacle in communications, Mrs. Joseph (Ella Merkel) DiCarlo, is extremely active in the newspaper business today. Intelligent, talented and deeply spiritual, Mrs. DiCarlo is a woman highly sensitive to life about her. She is particularly aware of the pulse of the world at this point in time. Here is an individual who is different in the best kind of way. She is one, too, to have made a significant difference in the perspectives of others.

Ella (Merkel) DiCarlo was born in Plauen, Germany. She came as a child to this city, rather circuitously, first by way of Chicago and later Chicopee, in 1927. Her love for these United States runs deep and earnest. "It takes someone from another country to appreciate what we have here," she told the writer. "Even today opportunities are endless, but they are there only if one looks long enough and hard enough to find them," Mrs. DiCarlo, a spirited personality from childhood, looked and found opportunities galore.

When the Merkel family arrived in this city, its members spoke little or no English. Mrs. DiCarlo remembers going to elementary school those first years, a total stranger in a strange land. She recalls the kindness of the teachers, the encouragement received along the way, and the zeal with which she studied English that she might be able to communicate with her peers. Not only did Ella Merkel learn to speak the English tongue in its purity, she mastered it. By the time she was graduated from Holyoke High School, Class of 1937, the name of Ella Merkel was listed among the honor students.

Today, the child whose native tongue was German, has become one of the few women news

editors in this Commonwealth. She serves the Holyoke Transcript-Telegram not only in that capacity but in several others as well. Her column, "The Changing Scene" has an impressive number of readers. Her occasional editorials are among the best.

Mrs. DiCarlo's journalistic and literary achievements embrace several categories. As a poet, she has great potential. Whether she writes a feature story, religious article, poem, or pageant-Mrs. DiCarlo is completely at home with the English tongue.

She is a student, one who believes in life-long study, formal and informal. As recently as the late sixties she was enrolled part-time at Smith and Holyoke Community College, respectively. With her, continuing education is a necessity if the good and the complete life is to be insured.

A writing career was begun back in high school. Early poems appeared in the High School "Herald" and the "Oracle" of the Transcript-Telegram. In 1960 this gifted woman began to write on a broad scale. Poems, articles and stories were published in Look magazine, Christian Science Monitor, the Humanist, Writer's Digest, and Home Life.

As an accepted preacher in the First Unitarian-Universalist Church, and a member of that denomination in Springfield, Mrs. DiCarlo's activities have been boundless. She has preached in several Connecticut Valley parishes and has penned a considerable number of religious articles - some general, others specific in character. In 1965 she wrote and directed the play "Gideon and the Angel" and another play, "The Heritage" for the

Religious Education Department of the Unitarian Church. It bears repeating that Holyoke's great women leaders have been and are, even in this blatantly materialistic age, deeply spiritual individuals.

Mrs. DiCarlo has been exceptionally active in community affairs. Her efforts in the cause of human rights and brotherhood have been outstanding. Whether engaged in finding homes and schools for black students or involved in organizations for the betterment of minorities as "Aim" and "CROP", Mrs. DiCarlo's efforts have been honest and sincere as opposed to those of insincere and opportunistic do-gooders. She was, in the recent past, honored by Holyoke Chapter, NCCJ for meritorious service rendered that group in behalf of Brotherhood.

Mrs. DiCarlo speaks of Holyoke as a city in transition, but for all of that a good city - a city that cares. Her outlook is positive and optimistic. As for women and their place in today's world, she offered, "Women are human beings and should be treated as such. They must be freed from stereotyping roles."

Ella DiCarlo's philosophy of life, somewhat eclectic, is most appropriate to the best in lifestyles at this moment in history. She combines realism and idealism in such a way as to insure the logical and reasonable; at the same time, however, logic and reason are tempered with empathy, understanding, and charity.

Ella Merkel DiCarlo is truly a lady of prominence not alone in journalism but more important still, in the highly sensitive area of human relations.

In 1939 Ella Merkel married Joseph DiCarlo. Four children were born to the couple: Sandra, today assistant editor of the Journal of Immunology, now living in Freiburg, Germany; Joseph Jr., currently as assistant landscape architect at the University of Massachusetts; Donna, a student at the University of Alberta, Canada; Jeffrey, student at Rochester Institute of Technology.



MRS. GEORGE (Barbara) BERNARD, JR.

A woman who has reached the top in several of the communicative arts is Mrs. George G. (Barbara) Bernard whose activities in radio, television, recording, and writing span a period of little more than two decades.

Emerson it was who said, "Every individual nature has its own beauty." Mrs. Bernard has a charm and grace peculiarly her own. A pleasing voice, gift for words, and glowing personality coupled with ability, conscientiousness, and drive account for the success she enjoys in a fascinating career.

For several years "The Barbara Bernard" show was a popular feature of WHYN AM/FM/TV. The show, had variety, a pleasing format, and wide audience appeal.

The writer recalls having been a guest on the show on one or two occasions. She always came away impressed with Mrs. Bernard's natural calm and poise. She had the knack of putting her guests at ease before and during the broadcast. There were no ruffles and flourishes, no dramatics. From an audience point of view, her show was a delightful visit with interesting people brought together to discuss a number of diversified subjects.

Children's stories, fashion news, and broadcasting are Mrs. Bernard's special talents. As a free-lance writer, she arranges photography and copy for Harpers, Vogue, Mademoiselle, and several New York advertising agencies. Her children's stories have been published in Story Parade, Jack and Jill, and Wee Wisdom magazines. She has done special assignments for the Transcript-Telegram, Northampton Gazette, and Westfield News Advertiser. She has also been taped on Columbia records.

Mrs. Bernard writes after the manner in which she speaks, easily and well. She has the skill of a fine craftsman in both oral and written communication.

Mrs. Bernard's chief interests are children, youth, and the aged. With respect to the latter, she was instrumental in founding the Golden Age Club in Holyoke in 1950. Her motivation was based on the premise that the aging should have an opportunity to be with their own peers, plan their own activities, and make their own decisions. The years have proved the wisdom of her thinking, as the Golden Agers today are a thriving and active group. They plan their own meetings and activities: fairs, card parties, travel tours, etc., and they take pride in their ability to accomplish on their own.

Mrs. Bernard, currently a member of Holyoke's Centennial Steering Committee, has great hope for the future of her adopted city. Many needed changes can and will be effected, but more people must become involved, she said.

She expressed concern, too, about our country's economic crisis, and was of the opinion that in terms of priorities it was one of our greatest problems.

Born in North Adams, Mrs. Bernard did not come to Holyoke until 1950. Her first contacts with the community were during her years at Mount Holyoke College, from which she was graduated with a major in psychology and a minor in English in 1948.

Mrs. Bernard's philosophy of life implies dependence on the Almighty. "I accept His will," she said briefly. "What is to be, I accept." Her goal

in life, she explained simply, was to live as long as she could, and as well as she could, that she might help others along the way.

Work with Golden Agers, Girl Scouts, and Brownies occupy whatever free time Mrs. Bernard can salvage from a busy life as wife, mother, and career woman.

Mr. and Mrs. George Bernard have two daughters: Betsy and Nancy.

In the days when radio was at its peak, Helen Bresnahan Humphries had a special radio show of her own called the "Helen Hope" program. Helen Bresnahan, as she was then, attracted a goodly audience of women as the thrust of her program was from the woman's point of view. It was a variety program in the sense that its format included a little of everything: interviews, fashions, announcements, etc. She had a pleasant voice, excellent diction, and an acute sense of what women prefer and enjoy.

Mrs. Humphries was a popular speaker at women's clubs. Often she would invite those chairing certain club projects to appear on her show. When she moved from Holyoke, the program was not renewed.

Barbara Heisler, though not a Holyoke native, is a Holyoker by reason of occupation. She has been in radio for twelve years, seven of which have been with WREB. Miss Heisler is Women's Program Director, and has a program at that Station called, "News and Views". She is a radio announcer and a writer of commercials as well. Actually, Miss Heisler is unique in that she has had experience in all phases of the business.

The writer remembers having been interviewed at WREB on one or two occasions, and recalls how hospitable Miss Heisler was at the time. She appeared to be a woman totally immersed in her work, one who really enjoyed everyday doings.

Activity in and beyond radio makes Miss Heisler a local celebrity. She has been engaged professionally in the theatre, and did appear with Mountain Park Players when stock was a popular attraction. She has had experience, too, with Holyoke's Little Theatre group.

Miss Heisler's talents are many and diversified. Along with radio and theatre pursuits, she also writes, directs, and produces fashion shows. The Holyoke community is the better for the contributions she has made to the communicative arts.

There were other writers not in the newspaper business whose endeavors had a wide circle of readers.

Mrs. Constance Green was a scholar and writer. Her publication, *Holyoke, Massachusetts, a Case History of Industrial Revolution*, was greatly acclaimed in its day. Mrs. Green's ability to analyze conditions and issues, and to pinpoint how they came to be, led to a better understanding of the urban complex, here and elsewhere.

A highly educated woman, Mrs. Green saw society for what it was and sought to change it for the better - gradually, practically, realistically. Mrs. Green was, in a measure, a sense-realist who recognized fully the implications of objective knowledge.

Mrs. Green left Holyoke some years ago. Her case history on Holyoke is still remembered and is,

on occasion, quoted in research papers in the field of sociology.

Mrs. James A. (Frances) Allen was another Holyoke woman whose novel *The Invader* was one of Holyoke's firsts. The writer, unacquainted with Mrs. Allen or her writings, must rely upon Mrs. Dwight's memo about the woman and her works. In a special 1949 edition of the T-T, ⁽¹⁾ Mrs. Dwight speaks of Mrs. Allen in these words:

"Among the writers to reach a wider circle (of readers) was Frances Allen, wife of James A. Allen, whose novel, *The Invader*, attained the best seller list. Mrs. Allen wrote several books that were drawn from the spirit of Holyoke."

Mrs. Mary Doyle Curran, a Holyoker who no longer resides here, wrote *Parish on the Hill*. The writer did not read the book, but from what could be gathered from those who did, it was a story of the earlier days of the Churchill section.

Mrs. Dora Gordon, author of *Cathy O'Hara*, was, according to information made available to the writer, an innkeeper, restaurateur and writer. She came to Holyoke in 1917. Because of a tremendous yearning for education, she is said to have attended Morgan School with her children and to have completed grammar school in three years. She went on to secondary school and was graduated from Holyoke High School in 1930. Later her education was continued at Columbia University where she majored in journalism.

A member of her family speaks of Mrs. Gordon as a most unusual woman. The direct quote follows:

"Her . . . determination was to progress in business and maintain a high calibre of education for herself and her family. The book, *Cathy O'Hara*,

(1) Special 1949 Edition of Transcript-Telegram P. 17

was written in the pre-dawn hours while the world slept. She was a very early riser - never *wanting* to waste a moment. *Cathy O'Hara* was her first published novel."

Mrs. Gordon not only sacrificed to educate herself, but four sons and one daughter as well. Sam Gordon went on to MIT, Isadore to Cornell, Sydney to New York University, Maurice to Parsons School of Design, and Shirley to the University of Massachusetts.

Mrs. Gordon served as an inspiration to her family and others. Her sense of values was high; education and culture were the goals she set for her children, and these goals were achieved. Had she never written a book, she would still have been a tremendous person.

It is heartening to note that in the emerging present, more women than ever are training for careers in the communicative arts. By the next Centennial, Holyoke's women of the press and television, plus those in the literary arts will far outnumber the writers included in this Centennial Volume.

Mrs. Blanch D. Sampson was one who communicated ideas through poetry. Though not a native of Holyoke, she served the city well in her years of residency here. She came to Holyoke in 1920. By profession she was a teacher, having graduated from Plymouth, New Hampshire State Teachers College, but her greatest satisfaction came from writing.

Mrs. Sampson wrote copiously. She authored poems, stories, and plays many of which were published in magazines, newspapers, and anthologies. She also wrote pageants for churches, clubs, and various other groups.

From her arrival here, Mrs. Sampson entered into the life of Holyoke, helping where she could by sharing her talents with others. In the infancy of radio, she had her own radio program. She held a "story hour", gratis, in Wards I and II when the branch libraries were first opened. Her social service was always spearheaded in the direction of children. She was a member of Holyoke Women's Club and the Springfield Poetry Club. She served as vice-president of the former and president of the latter.

Mrs. Sampson, who lived to be eighty-four died in 1964. Hers was a life devoted to the capture of beauty in the world about her. Her greatest joy, however, came from sharing that beauty with others.

CHAPTER XI

WOMEN IN EDUCATION

“Education must be universal . . . How can we expect the fabric of government to stand, if vicious materials are daily wrought into its framework. Education must prepare our citizens to become municipal officers, intelligent jurors, honest witnesses, or competent judges of legislation - in fine, to fill all the manifold relations of Life. The whole land must be watered with the streams of knowledge. It is not enough to have, here and there, a beautiful fountain playing in palace gardens; but let it come like the abundant fitness of the clouds upon the thirsting earth.”

- HORACE MANN

Life and Letters

Edited by his Wife, Mary Mann, 1867

From the days of Horace Mann to the present, education has been on the march in this State. True, it had its periods when the march was slowed down, when its critics claimed education was dragging its feet, when its educational shortages were aired in the public press, but, by and large, America has educated more individuals at the public expense than any other country in the world. The outstanding characteristic of American education has been, and still is, its universality.

In our pluralistic society, of which Holyoke is certainly a striking example, free, universal public education is vital to the support and maintenance of a free nation. Each generation of educators in this city has striven through the years to align practice with theory in order to achieve this overriding goal. Though from time to time, there have been some temporary obstacles, Holyoke's educational gains have far exceeded fondest hopes in the one hundred years of her development as a city.

Products of Holyoke's schools have gone on to high places in city, state, and nation. Those of us in the business, however, realize that more and more youth should be encouraged to aim higher. At this point in time, -the age of people-power, - our city and the nation are more emphatic than ever that education for all is a categorical imperative, and that individual self realization, and survival of our republic are, indeed, our major philosophical absolutes.

Any city, state, or nation can have a sound philosophical base as a point of departure for its education goals, but without the dedication of strong teachers, little can really be accomplished in terms of goal achievement. Holyoke has been blessed in many ways, but mainly in the number of able, trained, and devoted educators the city has had in its schools the century just past.

Here, men and women have risen to great heights in their profession. In the early days, those in education looked upon it as a calling, almost akin to that of the ministry. As materialism seeped more and more into the profession, some older fundamental assumptions and values were either lost or modified. Nonetheless, outstanding teachers have persisted in "doing their own things" despite today's contracts in which hours and conditions of service have had to be spelled out in irrevocable detail. It can be said, and without reservation, that even at this point in time most teachers are as devoted to the spirit of their profession as were their earliest predecessors.

Selected for inclusion in this volume are those women educators who, measured by the best of standards, must be labeled "outstanding". That

there have been and are many more than included here is readily admissible. It is the intention of the writer, however, because of time and space to include, for the most part, only those representative of specific leadership groups.

Prior to the advent of training programs for secondary teachers, many of our early women educators were graduated from Smith and Mount Holyoke College. They were specialists in their major subject matter areas. The Misses Lillian Fay and Adele Allen, graduates of the first class at Smith College were outstanding teachers at Holyoke High School. Miss Fay was an English scholar; Miss Allen a classical scholar with majors in Latin and Greek. In the 1949 issue of T-T, ⁽¹⁾Mrs. Dwight speaks of these early teachers in this way:

“Miss Lillian Fay and Miss Adele Allen came out of the first class from Smith College to teach in Holyoke High School. Miss Fay taught English and Miss Allen was accepted nationally as one of the great teachers of Greek and Latin in her time. Associated with her and then her successor, was Miss Bertha Morgan who was said to have prepared more Holyoke boys in Latin for their priesthood studies than any other one teacher.”

The Misses Allen, Fay and Morgan were of the old school - individuals singularly dedicated as scholars and teachers. They were experts in subject matter content; they were strict, conscientious, and demanding. They were the type to inspire students to aspire to greater things.

Religious who would fall into the same category would be Rev. Sister Theresa Joseph of the Sisters of St. Joseph among the first teachers at Rosary High School, the Rev. Sister Mary Alacoque also at Rosary, whose work in Music over many

(1) Ibid. P. 17

years touched the entire community, and Rev. Sister Bernadette at Sacred Heart High School whose knowledge of the classics was inspirational and profound.

Sister Bernadette was stationed at Sacred Heart High School for many years, mainly in the twenties and early thirties. She knew whole passages from Cicero's *Orationes* without referring to a page. She was apt to quote a certain sentence or passage as, "Quam usque abutere Catilina, patientia nostra?" and ask of the class, "Now, about where in the *Orationes* would you place that quote and why?" In Greek, she was apt to follow the same pattern, especially with Zenophon's *Anabasis*.

Sister Bernadette was a grammarian of the first order. No one ever left her classes in Latin or Greek without at least having been exposed to versification and prosody, the accent and the foot, the line, the rhyme, and the stanza. Example upon example of iambus, trochee, anapest, dactyl, amphibrach, pyrrhic, and tribrach are as freshly remembered by some of her students today as if learned only yesterday.

The amazing thing about the early classicists was their ability to relate Latin and Greek constructions to the English tongue. This was true of Holyoke's public and non-public teachers of earlier years.

In the Modern Language Department of Holyoke High School, Miss Anna Marie Laporte, first teacher of French descent to be appointed to Holyoke High School, was a broadly educated scholar, and rare teacher - *une femme de belle lettres*. She was creative, exacting, and inspirational

in her approach of teaching. Today, countless older Holyokers remember her classical allusions to the great French litterateurs, and her dedication to "la langue francaise".

Miss Laporte was also adroit in the use of English. Much of her poetry, rich in cadence and euphony, often appeared in the Holyoke Transcript-Telegram.

Anna Marie Laporte's life was itself a poem. The poet Shelley said, "Poetry is the record of the best and happiest moments of the happiest and best minds." This happy and intelligent woman was another of Holyoke's great teachers.

There have been in more recent years other fine teachers of French at Holyoke High School. Among many, the Misses Julia Fitzgerald, Helena Kelly, and Mrs. John (Mary Louise) Stiles made a fine team. They were respected, conscientious, and successful educators.

Miss Helena Kelly (no relation to the writer, though relationship is frequently mistaken) was Head of the Department of Modern Languages for several years. A refined and cultured lady, she spoke French with the fluency and proficiency of an educated native. She was graduated from Mount Holyoke College with a B.A. Degree and Western Reserve University with an M.A. She proved to be a most capable department director. It was under her guidance that a language lab was installed for the first time at Holyoke High School.

Mrs. Stiles, current Head of the Modern Language Department, is the wife of John Stiles who, for nearly two decades, was a member of the Holyoke School Committee, and its Chairman, for several years. Mrs. Stiles holds an A.B. Degree

from Smith College plus an M.A. from the same institution. She possesses a rich background in the languages and is totally conversant in French and Spanish. Today, she supervises a department responsible for courses in French, German, Spanish, and Russian. Attesting to her ability as teacher and leader are the numbers of students who score exceptionally high, especially in French, on SAT Tests each year. Several of our high school's French students have been National Merit Scholars. She and her teachers deserve a word of acclaim for excellency in teaching.

Holyoke has been blessed with outstanding Deans of Girls from earliest days to the present. Miss Margaret Delaney, one of Holyoke's great teachers of English and eventually high school Librarian and Dean of Girls, was graduated from Mount Holyoke in 1904. After extensive travel, she joined the faculty of Holyoke High School in 1906, and taught there for thirty-seven years. She brought to her English classes depth in subject matter, inherent culture, and wide travel.

Margaret Delaney, a totally committed teacher is said to have had a tremendous influence on students in her classes. Later, when she became Librarian and Dean of Girls at high school, her sphere of influence was considerably broadened.

Her obituary, printed on page one of the Transcript-Telegram January 10 of 1944, read in part:

“Miss Delaney . . . was one of the outstanding personalities on the high school faculty. She organized inter-class clubs for high school students which were famous in high school circles as an inspiring force for students in love of English literature . . .



MARGARET T. DELANEY

"The Round Table Club founded by Miss Delaney shortly after she joined the high school staff, is regarded as one of her most outstanding deeds. . . in later years Miss Delaney founded the Good Fellows Club which grew to large proportions."

A statement from Dr. Howard Conant, following news of Miss Delaney's death, was published a few days later. A portion of this is quoted herewith:

"Yesterday your paper brought me word of the death of Miss Margaret Delaney. The announcement deserves the prominence it received, for with her passing the city of Holyoke has lost a citizen who, by her devotion to her duties and her intelligent, and sympathetic understanding of the problems and ambitions of countless High School boys and girls, enriched their lives and, through them, helped in making our city a better place in which to live.

". . . Miss Delaney was more than a teacher of Books; she taught live boys and girls. In thousands of homes there will be mourning."

Miss Delaney was a most unusual woman, and a remarkable teacher. There was much sadness at her passing.

Miss Lillian Maxfield, a Mount Holyoke College graduate, succeeded Miss Delaney as Dean of Girls. She, too, was a woman of tremendous depth, a totally dedicated person. She had a firm but kindly manner about her, and was immensely respected by the students.

Miss Maxfield, as Miss Delaney before her, had the personality and character exacted of professionals in the position of Dean. She understood the meaning of empathy, discreetness, and counsel. She treated the records of the girls with the utmost confidentiality; she never belittled the students or made them feel inferior in their own eyes.

The writer has known Lillian Maxfield a goodly number of years. She has never heard her betray the confidence of a student assigned to her for help.

Miss Maxfield, though retired, is active today in Delta Kappa Gamma, a national honor society for women teachers, and Holyoke Quota Club.

Miss Gertrude Griffin succeeded Miss Maxfield as Dean in 1954. Miss Griffin taught English and Music at Morgan when that school was a junior high. The writer, whose first teaching assignment in Holyoke was at Morgan in the thirties, then met Miss Griffin for the first time. Thereafter they teamed to produce plays, musicales, operettas, and pageants. Miss Griffin would do the music, the writer the original scripts.

From first hand experience the writer learned of the many sacrifices Gertrude Griffin made in behalf of Morgan School and its pupils. She devoted hours to her work, hours above and beyond the call of duty.

Miss Griffin was eventually transferred to High School. She became Dean of Girls in 1954. She brought to her work as Dean the same spirit, verve, and commitment she exhibited at Morgan. Upon her retirement in 1970, Miss Kathleen O'Leary became Dean. Hers is today a difficult task as this point in time is probably the most climactic in the country's history.

Until fairly recently, it was not easy for women to aspire to top positions in education in the secondary schools. This was especially true of Department Heads, here and elsewhere. In the not too distant past, a favorite in the women's world was the quip, "They'll appoint a weak man in preference to

a strong woman, nine times out of ten." It has always been the opinion of the writer that appointment to top positions should be on the basis of merit solely; gender should not be a significant consideration.

At Holyoke High School, we have had within more recent years, several women, who, along with male counterparts, have been exceptional leaders. Among these we would list Miss May M. Austin, Head of the Business Education Department in the fifties; Miss Marie Sullivan, its present Head; Mrs. John Stiles, currently Head of the Modern Language Department; Miss Helena Kelly, former Head, now retired.

In the junior high school unit, Miss Agnes Kelliher was the first and only woman elected to the position of Principal. She was the administrator of the West Street School when it was a combined elementary-junior high unit. She was one of the stalwarts in education, a fitting successor to her predecessor, the late John J. Lynch for whom, incidentally, the Lynch Junior High School was named.

Miss Kelliher brooked no nonsense from friend or foe. Education with her was a serious business. She was exacting of student and teacher alike, and she was respected for it. She ran a good school, and was loved by the parents in Ward I. Following her death, the parents and students insisted that a room in the school be converted to a library in her honor. When space was needed in later years, the library had to go.

Miss Jennie Scolley, first Assistant Superintendent in Holyoke's schools, retired in the mid-thirties after fifty years of service to the Holyoke

community. She was a little woman in stature, but for all of that a tireless, active, intelligent and vigorous educator. She had a delightful personality; she was outgoing, optimistic and warm-hearted. As Assistant Superintendent, the major part of her work was supervision of schools and classes. For innovations at her point in time, Jennie Scolley was recognized throughout the state and nation. It was during her incumbency, and under the direction of Dr. Peck, then Superintendent of Schools, that kindergartens were expanded, and the position of home teacher, first in the nation, was established in Holyoke in 1923. She it was, too, who set up the first curricula and program of studies for the junior high school when the new H. B. Lawrence School was opened in 1931.

Miss Scolley related exceptionally well to the teachers she supervised. They never had a fear of her, but they did respect her as a most capable teacher and supervisor. She was firm but kind and always treated her teachers as individuals worthy of the respect they tendered her. As one teacher put it, "She never asked us to do something new and different without first showing us how. She never left us in the dark, floundering about, and not seeing a light anywhere."

Miss Scolley was an expert in social studies. She was the first to introduce Kilpatrick's problem-project method in the schools. During her time, too, she systematized the reading program, and held the first in-service training programs for the staff. She it was who also opened the fresh air class for undernourished children at the old Park Street School. Miss Anne Halfpenny was the teacher assigned to it. This fresh air class was the first of its kind in the state, and probably the nation.

Miss Scolley was involved in many community activities. She served on countless boards, locally and state-wide. She organized Americanization and citizenship classes to cope with the influx of immigrants who came to Holyoke during the city's first fifty years. Miss Scolley was a truly outstanding educator. She was indeed a woman for all seasons.

The writer, as a very young teacher, served the city at Morgan School a few years before Miss Scolley's retirement. Her one ambition was to emulate Miss Scolley's example. It is probably not an exaggeration to say that all teachers felt toward Miss Scolley, at that time, as did the writer.

Miss Anna Warren was the first and only full-time supervisor of Holyoke's day and evening Americanization and Citizenship classes. She had achieved state-wide recognition for her able service in that field. Under her directorship, citizenship and Americanization classes flourished, not only in schools but also in factories, churches, halls, and storefronts. Wherever space could be found classes were held.

She arranged training programs for teachers aspiring to instruct in such classes. She was among the first in the state and country to use the so-called direct method in teaching English as a second tongue. The writer, a student-teacher in her training classes well remembers the lessons. Miss Warren would act out each presentation, an example of which follows:

With eraser poised in hand she would say, "I" (pointing to herself) "have an eraser." (Holding it high).

"I erase the blackboard." (Doing it).

There were countless similar presentations with accent always on the concrete or objective. The examples became more complex as the first easy aspects were mastered.

Miss Warren was an excellent teacher and supervisor who endeared herself, through her work, to countless immigrants. Today most of those who came to her classes for instruction, can speak English as a second tongue with the ease of a native.

Miss Warren will long be remembered for her contribution as supervisor of Holyoke's Americanization and Citizenship classes. She worked day and night, and was never known to complain about the long hours required of her position.

The Warrens and Kellys have been family friends for years. Kate Warren, a strong elementary teacher and Anna Warren, along with the writer's mother, received their early education with the Sisters of Notre Dame. Miss Anna Warren always exhibited a keen professional interest in the writer and was, throughout the years, one of her best supporters.

Miss Esther Greeley, only woman educator ever to receive the Dwight Award for outstanding service to the community, succeeded Miss Jennie Scolley as Supervisor of Elementary Schools. The title of Assistant Superintendent had been temporarily eliminated with Miss Scolley's retirement. Though opposites in the extreme, both women were great educators. Miss Scolley was a small person, scarcely five feet high; Miss Greeley was a tall, stately, imposing individual. She had come to

the position from a principalship at William Whiting School where she had earned the name of a powerful and brilliant educational leader. She it was who established the "Bath programs" at the school for those students who did not have bath tubs in their homes. Only within very recent years has that program been eliminated. She also engineered the soup tureen for undernourished children in the school. She, as Miss Kelliher, was a strict disciplinarian.

During her principalship years, Miss Greeley had been appointed to the Whiting Street Fund, a post she held until her death. This was a charitable fund, monies from which were expended annually to help poor and needy. Miss Greeley did great charitable work in the schools with monies made available from Whiting Street, Knights of Columbus, and similar funds. It was her belief that a clean, well-nourished and properly dressed child had crossed his first hurdle on the road to learning.

Miss Greeley was one of three sisters in education: Mary (Molly), who taught English in the Junior High School and later went on to teach a pre-vocational class for girls at high school, and Kathleen, a teacher of Home Economics at H. B. Lawrence School. They were cultured and refined ladies who read widely and traveled extensively.

Miss Greeley retired from her position as Supervisor of Elementary Education in 1945. She was the first Chairman of the newly established Teacher Selection Committee, designed to appoint teachers strictly on the basis of merit. She was in this position but shortly before her retirement.

When the writer, an avid reader, succeeded Miss Greeley in the fall of 1945, she was greatly im-

pressed by the many professional books Miss Greeley had read. All were underlined where they had particular application to her work. She was a student to her last days.

Miss Greeley was involved in several social and civic activities within the community. She was one of the early presidents of the Business and Professional Women's Club, a Commissioner on the Whiting Street Fund, a Member Ex Officio of the Holyoke Public Library and Museum, and a strong supporter of Catholic Lending Library.

More women than men have been elected principals of the elementary schools, except within the last ten years. From the early days of the city's founding, women served as principals of elementary units. The Misses Mary Hussey, Elizabeth O'Neil, Katherine Mahoney, Agnes C. Kelley, Emily Curran and Anna F. Sheehan were among the earlier elementary leaders; the Misses Agnes Kelliher, Anna Stansfield, Mary McTigue, Frances Donahue, Anne Halfpenny, Eva Moynihan and Mrs. Sara Wilcoxon were the next group of leaders in point of time; they were followed by the writer and the Misses Lillian Donoghue, Lillian Forsythe, Helen O'Leary, Catherine Shea, Ann Cronin, Lillian Taft, Helen Fitzgerald, Margaret Griffin, Alice Dowd, Rebecca Bray and Irene Roy (Housen). The writer went on to Assistant Superintendent in 1945, and the Superintendency in 1963. Of the remainder of the latter group, only Ann Cronin and the writer are in service today.

The Golden Age of women principals in Holyoke was the period between 1945 and 1964. For the first time in the city's history, requirement for election to the principalship was a Master's

Degree. The women who served in that charmed era were probably one of the most professionally trained groups in the Commonwealth. They were recognized at home and away as outstanding leaders. They were frequently invited to participate in state conferences or area institutes. They had their own club. They held regular monthly dinner meetings following which there was a structured program in which educational problems and issues were discussed. They went as a body to professional meetings where other principals sought them out. They were always respectfully referred to as the "Holyoke Group". Their advice and counsel were sought throughout the Commonwealth. They were written up in "School Management", a professional magazine with national circulation, as "Holyoke's Team Approach to the Principalship".

They sponsored and held one of the largest educational fairs the city has ever had; they held the biggest book fair and book ball ever attempted in this city. Both were based at the War Memorial Building. They also conducted experiments in machine teaching, homogeneous grouping, the new math, economics, and citizenship education.

Each principal became a specialist in a selected field and circulated results of experiments among other principals. They appeared on radio, periodically, to discuss new departures.

The writer, then Assistant Superintendent of Schools, was blessed with having had such a highly professional group with which to work.

By 1960 every elementary principal held a Master's Degree. The Highland, Kirtland, Morgan, Metcalf, Springdale, South Chestnut, West and E.

N. White were administered by women. Of the eleven elementary schools, only two, a combined elementary-junior high and one elementary unit were administered by men, (Mr. James Bower and Mr. Timothy Burns). Today by contrast there are twelve elementary units, and one combined elementary-junior high; of the thirteen principals, nine are men and but four are women. The latter include: Miss Ann Cronin, Principal of Lt. E. J. McMahan; Mrs. Alice Marion, Principal of Kirtland; Mrs. Jeanne Sarkis, Principal of Maurice A. Donahue; lastly, Mrs. Doris Murphy, Principal of Springdale.

The writer had no personal contact with the earliest group of principals, but, as Assistant Superintendent, she did get to know of the work of the Misses Mary McTigue, Frances Donahue, Anne Halfpenny and Eva Moynihan, the next group in point of time. Miss Anna Stansfield had already retired. She does recall, too, that when the Teacher Selection Committee was first established about 1941, it was comprised of the following five persons: Miss Esther Greeley, Chairman, and the Misses Anna Stansfield, Mary McTigue, Anne Halfpenny and Eva Moynihan, members. Because the Teacher Selection Plan was designed to take the election of teachers out of politics, that first Committee is important as a matter of history.

The Misses Mary McTigue and Frances Donahue were women of conservative tastes - gentle ladies whose virtues and values stemmed from the Jesuitical absolute that certain values never change. They were totally good women, conscientious, persevering, and dependable. Miss McTigue, a soft-spoken person, was principal of William Whiting school from which she retired in the late

forties. In those days there was a small vacant room on the second floor of the building which Miss McTigue used for her assemblies. These were delightful affairs. One, in particular, comes to the forefront of the writer's mind. It was a children's dramatization of Tchaikovsky's "Nut Cracker Suite" which delighted parents, children, and the writer.

Miss McTigue was one to emphasize the humanizing aspects of teaching - poetry, art and music.

Miss Frances Donahue, was principal of Kirtland at the time of her retirement - in the fifties. Miss Donahue was a motherly woman - warm, kindly, and generous. She was a worthy successor to Miss Katherine (Kate) Mahoney who had the principalship before her. The writer remembers best Miss Donahue's willingness and readiness to cooperate with the new Assistant Superintendent. One of the innovations at that point in time was the "Radio-in-Education" program, sponsored by Radio Station WHYN in cooperation with the Holyoke Public Schools. It was a weekly program worked out a year in advance for each of the years it was in operation. What impressed the writer was Miss Donahue's participation in that program. She, and another principal, Miss Eva Moynihan, usually went on radio once a month to explain new points of departure in the schools. Sometimes they would use prepared scripts; at other times, the participants would talk from notes. Miss Donahue, though up there in age at the time, was just wonderful. She "ad-libbed" with the savoir faire of a veteran. She was one of the favorites at the Station, and certainly admired by the writer.

Miss Frances Donahue was, incidentally, aunt to Maurice A. Donahue, former President of the State Senate after whom the newly opened Maurice A. Donahue School has been named.

Miss Anne Halfpenny, a tall, reserved, and reticent woman was, at the time of her retirement in the fifties, principal of Highland School. Miss Halfpenny had tremendous dignity. Her standards of behavior were high. She was one to set the pace and expected that the pace set would be followed. She was most understanding of children. Before she became principal, she had long years of experience as teacher of the underprivileged. She served, mainly, in the so-called "downtown" schools. As mentioned elsewhere, she was the first teacher of the city's first fresh-air class for undernourished children.

A tremendously active woman, Miss Halfpenny was exceptionally community-minded and an outstanding club woman. She holds to this day memberships in Quota, Business and Professional Women's Club, Women's Committee of the Holyoke Museum, and Delta Kappa Gamma, the latter a national honor society for women teachers. Miss Halfpenny was the first educator to be elected a bank corporator. In her more active days, she was a tireless worker for Grace Church, and enjoyed the friendship of the Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Robinson throughout their service in Holyoke.

Miss Eva Moynihan was graduated with Miss Anne Halfpenny from what is now Westfield State College. Miss Moynihan, like Miss Halfpenny, was a woman of dignity and refinement. In the mid-forties, the Misses Halfpenny, Moynihan, Frances Donahue and other principals made it a practice to attend annual conferences of the New England

Association for Reading. The best minds of the country would expound at the numerous sessions held over a three-day period. Upon return, Miss Moynihan would unfailingly send copies of her transcribed notes to the School Department office and invariably would hold meetings with her own staff to review the latest pronouncements of the experts. Eventually, because of the great enthusiasm engendered by Miss Moynihan, all principals, until comparatively recent years, attended these conferences annually. Of these fine women, only one, Miss Anne Halfpenny, lives at this point in time.

The period between the end of World War Two and 1964, was right for educational experimentation and curriculum organization. It was a comparatively easy age in which to accept and implement the function of leadership. The schools' enrollments were comfortable; in fact, enrollments were so low during the late forties and early fifties that the School Committee spent long hours studying the feasibility of phasing out the Morgan and West Street Junior High Schools by transferring pupils to H. B. Lawrence. The West was converted to an elementary school in 1949; Morgan, the same year.

It was during the so-called Golden Age that Miss Helen O'Leary, able principal of William Whiting School, was called to the University of Massachusetts where, until her retirement but a few years back, she was one of that institution's most popular professors. While at the University she went on for a Doctorate which she received from the University of Connecticut. Dr. O'Leary, a specialist in reading, was a popular University Extension instructor for years. In the fifties, she and



DR. HELEN F. O'LEARY

the writer travelled up and down the Valley bringing the newest in psychology and methodology to teachers in service.

Miss Lillian Donoghue, whose last principalship prior to her death was Kirtland School, was expert in English and a remarkable leader. She was a woman enjoyed by other women. She had an excellent sense of humor and great ability for reproducing educational jargon in satirical verse. She was a kindly, generous and understand-

ding professional who extended herself beyond the call of duty for the good of children and youth.

Miss Donoghue was well regarded by her peers. In addition to an engaging social manner, she possessed a keen and ready wit. She was one liked and respected by parents, peers, and pupils.

Ever alert to new ideas, she was not afraid to explore realms of the unknown. She herself had unusual ability in creative writing and encouraged teachers to have children do more of it in the classroom. She was a master at the direction of choral speaking and, on occasion, demonstrated its technique.



REBECCA DONAHUE

Death came to Miss Donoghue in 1961 while she was still in service as principal of Kirtland School.

Miss Rebecca Donahue, principal of West Street School, had marvelous rapport with the parents of that school. She had, during her time, one of the best PTA's in the city. The first black

woman to become president of a PTA, in Holyoke, was Mrs. Henry (Edith) Jennings. Mrs. Jennings was a loyal supporter of the school and was, where the PTA was concerned, an indefatigable worker.

Miss Donahue's broad understanding of the problems of the neighborhood helped to establish her reputation as a principal in that section. Even before the era of the disadvantaged had dawned, her pupils had participated in a "Higher Horizons" program for the culturally deprived.

Miss Donahue stood for no nonsense. She worked diligently to make West a school of which people in the neighborhood would be proud, and they were. During her regime, too, she had established good rapport with the minority groups.

Miss Donahue was the Team's expert on safety education. It was her responsibility each year to see that all schools qualified for certificates from the National Safety Council. Well regarded by other principals, she had no difficulty in seeing to it that all NSC questionnaires were completed in detail and forwarded to the Council's Chicago office. She also co-chaired, with Henry Padden (Principal of J. J. Lynch), and Miss Ann Cronin, the citizenship project which won for the city a Freedom's Foundation Plaque.

Miss Donahue, an English scholar, did special study at King's College, University of London. She is a member of Alpha Chapter, Delta Kappa Gamma, National Honor Society for women in education. Today she is quite active in the retired teachers' group.

Another principal who served in the Golden Era was Miss Ann Cronin; today principal of Lt. Elmer J. McMahan School. Well before the dawn of



ANN H. CRONIN

federal programs for the disadvantaged, when Miss Cronin was serving as principal of Morgan she chaired "Higher Horizons", a project designed to lift the sights of the underprivileged by offering them better than equal educational opportunity in order that they might survive. This was the first project of its kind in the Commonwealth. It was funded partially by the State and partially by the Holyoke Women's Club. The activity was so successful that Miss Cronin was invited to review its highlights over a Boston TV network and at a state conference on education held at the University of Massachusetts.

Miss Cronin, a bright woman - serious-minded and scholarly - exerted leadership in nearly every research project or innovation initiated by the women principals. Miss Cronin's efforts in language, team teaching, brotherhood, and curriculum have been most commendable. The writer has never known her to reject an assignment. Miss Catherine Shea and Miss Cronin were outstanding volunteers. She is still fulfilling that role today. She, as Miss Donahue, is a member of Alpha Chapter, Delta Kappa Gamma.



CATHERINE T. SHEA

Miss Catherine Shea, another of the group of outstanding women principals, retired two years ago. At the time of her retirement, she was principal of Highland School. Miss Shea was a specialist in reading, particularly reading for enjoyment. She chaired the Committee that introduced the Friday afternoon library reading

periods in the elementary schools. She saw to it that every classroom had a library of books, and that each child was taught how to make a simple book report. She co-chaired the huge Book Fair and Book Ball at the War Memorial which attracted thousands of visitors. A parade of hundreds of children, dressed in favorite book characters, marched around War Memorial while judges decided upon the costumes most true to character. Miss Shea was also an expert in Social Studies. She conducted several pilot studies in that discipline.

Miss Shea was a strong member of the Team Principal group. She was one to volunteer service, and respected by her peers.

Miss Helen Fitzgerald, whose specialty was mathematics, chaired the arithmetic committee during the Golden Era of which the writer speaks. Miss Fitzgerald was also an expert in "unit teaching".

During the late fifties, it was she who exerted leadership for the inclusion of the "new math" in the arithmetic curriculum of the elementary school. She held several in-service training sessions for teachers at which, on one occasion, a noted mathematician from the University of Chicago was brought on to address the staff.

Members of the Principals' Team received many invitations to participate in educational fairs and conferences. Miss Fitzgerald was invited, during early days of the pilot program, to display children's work in the new math at a state teachers' college in the eastern part of the state. The affair was recieved so well that a similar display became part of the Team Principals' presentation at the 1964 Convention of the American Association of School Administrators in Atlantic City.



HELEN FITZGERALD

At the time of her retirement, Miss Helen Fitzgerald was principal of Kirtland School.

Miss Alice Dowd was principal of Lt. Elmer J. McMahon before her retirement three years ago. She was also a member of the Team Principals' group. Miss Dowd, an indefatigable worker, was a solid public school principal. Her specialty, Economics, brought a reputation for innovation and excellence to the Holyoke School system. Holyoke was the first to include Economic Education in its published elementary curriculum. This was in the late nineteen hundred fifties. So well developed was the Economics section of the curriculum that Miss Dowd and several other Team Principals were invited to present their materials at a statewide conference held at the University of Massachusetts. Miss Dowd's objective presentation, as well as that of other principals who participated, was judged excellent by Dr.

Thomas Curtin, a gentleman who later became Acting Commissioner of Education for the Commonwealth.

Miss Margaret Griffin, retired but a few short years from the principalship of Lt. Clayre P. Sullivan School, was a splendid teacher and principal. She, too, was one of the "Team". Her great contribution was in the field of phonics and developmental reading at the primary levels. She had taught for Miss Eva Moynihan, one of the earlier principals, who was a member of the Group but had retired some years before the Team had reached the height of its achievement. Miss Moynihan herself was an expert in reading and often used Miss Griffin as a demonstration teacher. Miss Griffin, who had been for years a primary teacher, had rare expertise in reading. As principal she emphasized the necessity of getting children to like to read. She, along with other members of the Team, experimented with different approaches to the teaching of that complex process.

Miss Griffin was beloved by students and teachers. Cultured, intelligent and dedicated, she reflected the kind of image the public likes to see in its leaders.

Miss Rebecca Bray, principal of E. N. White School at the time of her retirement several years back, was an expert in Music. She had been, in fact, a supervisor of elementary music for some time prior to her election to the principalship. She related well to the parents, teachers, and staff at White School. Miss Bray, a woman with a multitude of interests, was a supporter of brotherhood programs and served as school coordinator of brotherhood activities for a period of one or two

years. She was a woman involved in numerous activities beyond the scope of her professional day. (Section on Volunteers).

Miss Lillian Taft, principal of Metcalf School at the time of her death, was still another team member. She was one who served the principalship with a kind of casual elegance. Well poised, softly spoken, and always immaculately groomed, she gave the impression that, "God's in His Heaven and all's right with the world." She managed her school easily and well. She, along with other members of the Team, engaged in a machine teaching experiment in spelling and was one of the group who went to the AASA conference in Atlantic City to explain the results of Holyoke's "Machine Teaching Experiment". The research, incidentally, was conducted in cooperation with National Blank Book Company, supplier of books for the experiment.

Holyoke has had tremendous leadership in the special departments of its schools. In art, supervisors Grace Lynn and Constance Shea have performed well over the years. Miss Lynn was always one to volunteer service to other departments by way of correlating art with different subjects of the curriculum. She initiated the first children's art shows and arranged for public displays at conferences, conventions, and institutes. Although she believed individual natural talent should be explored and developed, she also was of the opinion that all children and youth should be exposed to art for its humanizing effects on the lives of people.

Miss Constance Shea was Miss Lynn's successor. She held a philosophy similar to Miss Lynn's. With the new high school and the facilities

it offered for multi-dimensional efforts in art, the art program's offerings were considerably expanded.

In vocal music three outstanding women, the Misses Ella Norris and Alice Keating in the elementary division, and Mrs. Mary Y. Caddigan in the secondary will be remembered for the musical responses they were able to elicit from students.

Ella Norris had the energy of a dynamo; Alice Keating, too, had tremendous energy and drive. Neither was ever known to complain that the teaching load was too heavy. Miss Norris was the first and only music teacher to present a huge elementary ensemble in dance and song before the Hampden County Teachers' Convention in October of 1947. The children were applauded over and over again; finally, they were given a standing ovation as they left the great stage of Springfield's Municipal Auditorium.

Mrs. Mary Caddigan, a petite person, was one of our most effective teachers of vocal music in the junior high school. She related exceptionally well to students. Under her direction, nothing seemed too difficult to undertake. She was able to direct operettas and musicales with an ease and confidence that produced only the best choral efforts. Mrs. Caddigan's service at H. B. Lawrence Junior High was special and elevating. It will long be remembered.

Holyoke's first Home Teacher, Mrs. Charlotte Williams, daughter of Mrs. Frances Frederick, founder of Walnut Street Settlement was, as her mother before her, an outstanding person. She served in the position of Home Teacher from 1924 and retired in 1948. She was just the right in-

dividual for that position. Parents and pupils wept openly when they learned the news of her retirement. She was a greatly beloved teacher.

Miss Elizabeth O'Hern, though not a Holyoke native, was a strong community leader. During her term as Supervisor of Home Economics at Holyoke High she professionalized the Department, opened foods classes to boys, and was the first to introduce a child care course at high school. Students in that program would go into the city's Nursery/Day Care Centers as aides or junior interns. Miss O'Hern was also an indefatigable worker for Holyoke Chapter, National Conference of Christians and Jews, and Providence Hospital. She organized the first Candy Strippers at Providence. Miss Mary Corcoran, who succeeded Miss O'Hern is retiring this year. Holyoke has been fortunate in the fine women it has had at the helm the past century.

Holyoke's teaching staffs, through the evolving years have been the backbone of the city's school system. No department head, supervisor or administrator could operate without their loyalty, their support, and their unswerving dedication to children and youth. A toast is raised to all of them, from the earliest to the latest, for without their consecration to the professional ideal, the best administrators and the grandest buildings would amount to naught.

Because of the large number who would be considered "excellent", the writer has included only those women in leadership positions, or "first-in-education" roles, respectively.

William A. Mowry, in a book written in 1908 entitled *Recollections of a New England*

Educator,^[2] had this to say about the education of women:

“ . . . in my boyhood, I never saw a woman who had a college degree. The first instance of the admission of women to the regular academic courses as candidates for a college degree was at Oberlin College, Ohio in 1837 . . . ”

Mr. Mowry went on to point out that Wellesley, Smith, Vassar, and other women's colleges, did not come into being until after 1870. He then continued as follows:

“The young men may now look to their laurels. From present appearances (1908) it would seem probable that before many years the alumnae may outnumber the alumni.”

As predicted, women have come a long way in the span of a century. More opportunities are open to them than ever before. Despite this, the number of women who seek administrative positions in education seems to be on the decline. In Holyoke, when women apply, they are considered on equal terms with men, if they are equally qualified. This is as it should be.

Only three women have been elected to elementary principalships in the last ten years. Mrs. Alice Marion, serving today as Principal of Kirtland School, was appointed first in point of time. She is a personable, qualified, and experienced principal. Mrs. Jean Sarkis and Mrs. Doris Murphy are comparatively new principals. Mrs. Sarkis serves at the new Maurice A. Donahue School; Mrs. Murphy at Springdale. All three are strong, conscientious, and hard-working administrators. They have had experience in the elementary schools, were outstanding teachers, and possess Masters' Degrees.

[2] Mowry, W. A. *Recollections of a New England Educator*. New York: Silver, Burdett and Co., 1908, p. 273.

In reflecting upon reasons why women seem to be less interested in administrative posts today than hitherto the writer is reminded that the societal upheaval of the last decade may afford a partial answer to an intriguing question.

The writer would be remiss in closing this section on education without referring to the drastic change that engulfed education and society the last ten years of Holyoke's Historic One Hundredth.

A new and completely different era began about a decade ago. Nothing remained untouched by the stormy winds of the so-called Third World. Education, religion, government, society,-all suffered. Traditions and values held sacred from the days of the founding fathers were under attack, as were the very ideals for which Americans fought and died in the country's several wars. With the rise of people power, the establishment was battered with a vehemence unequalled in thrust in the history of the Republic.

There was no quarantining against the emerging onslaught. Holyoke, along with other communities throughout the land, was bound to feel the impact of this climactic change, and it did, though not to the same severe extent as felt elsewhere. It was an era in which seemingly everybody wanted something and wanted it fast.

'Notwithstanding the confusion and frustration, the era was one of the most challenging in our history - a time to test one's metal, and a time to try men's souls. The past Decade was a difficult time to accept leadership. Holyoke, an inner city complex, along with other urban communities felt the pinch. Schools were overcrowded, classroom space unavailable, and money scarce. Public school

enrollments continued to increase each year until, in 1971, the peak was reached with 10,200 children and youth enrolled in our schools. The closing of one non-public school, the influx of Spanish-speaking peoples, and housing developments in the western section of the city, were but a few of the city's problems. Civil rights, the drug culture, and the anti-establishment movement were tangents demanding immediate attention.

Those who served during that period had to exercise patience, courage, and common sense to survive the onslaught. Our teachers, both women and men, rallied to the exigencies of the period. They supported the cause of better than equal educational opportunities for minority groups; they were among the first in the Commonwealth to recognize the need for a new approach to bilingual education for Spanish-speaking peoples; they moved to initiate programs in black culture for the black minorities; at the same time, they supported the administration and sponsored the best in education for the children and youth entrusted to their care.

Despite the frustrations and confusions, several new firsts were added to Holyoke's long list of firsts in education. These are listed herewith for the sake of history:

- The city's first modified open campus plan at Holyoke High School in this city.
- The first Neighborhood Youth Corps in the state and one of the first in the country.
- The first "Higher Horizons" program for disadvantaged children in this state, pre-dating the era of categorical federal aid to education.

- The first federally funded Right-to-Read program in the state. (It is being directed by a most capable woman, Mrs. Alice Meisel, on leave from Holyoke High School.)
- The biggest building program the city has ever undertaken within a ten-year period.
- The first broad humanizing program in the state, - federally funded “Kulturama”.
- The first Council on Drug Abuse the city has ever had.
- The city’s first programs for girls at Holyoke Trade High School.
- The first “Book Labs” (federally funded) in the state.
- The first curriculum in family living (sex education) in the state, and the first health coordinator in Western Massachusetts, and probably the state.
- The city’s first commercial foods program in Trade High School.
- The city’s first cosmetology course at Holyoke Trade High School.
- The first mini-courses in the city’s junior high schools.

Those women and men who served in Holyoke’s educational complex the last decade can feel a deep sense of achievement. Women should continue to train for administrative positions and to apply for them regardless of the crises of a world in transition.

In bringing to a close this chapter on women in education, the last paragraph of Mr. Mowry’s book,

written in 1908 when he was seventy, is applicable to this moment in history: ⁽³⁾

“It seems to me that no sane student of American history can be a pessimist. We need have no fear of the future. Evil will come. Difficulties will be met; but our American people, in my judgment, will be more and more a strong people, a moral people, a religious people, and ultimately the greatest success will crown the efforts of those distinguished statesmen who less than a century and a half ago established this republic.”

Yes, evil has come and evil will come. Those of us who believe in the American dream must continue to look to the future with the faith our fathers placed in American institutions. Let our women and men in education go forward with hope in their hearts and unafraid.



WOMEN PRINCIPALS (In-Service and Retired)

Circa 1950's

Front Row - Catherine Shea, Eva Moynihan, Mary McTigue. Second Row - Rebecca Bray, Rebecca Donahue, Lillian Donoghue. Third Row - Helen FitzGerald, Ann Cronin, Elsie Peck, Dr. William R. Peck, Dr. Marcella Kelly and Frances Donoghue.

(3) Mowry, W. A. Op.cit, p. 279.

CHAPTER XII

WOMEN'S CLUBS

"Man is a social animal, formed to please and enjoy in society."

-CHARLES MONTESQUIEU

Human folk are gregarious by nature. They are happiest when they can be with people, especially those with whom they have interests or causes in common. One test of the strength of society is the number and stability of groups organized to insure personal growth, the common good, or both. Judged by that criterion alone, Holyoke is blessed, for group life as structured in the city's women's clubs is stable, wholesome, and uplifting.

Some clubs exist to promote interests that members may have in special cultural pursuits; others, to serve personal betterment, the welfare of fellowmen or the good of the community; still others, to promote social or political counsel of one kind or another. In any event, those belonging must have a common interest; without it, they cannot hope to survive.

The Holyoke Hospital Aid Association, one of Holyoke's earliest, was founded in 1891 under a different name (Chapter IV). It is said that volunteer members of the Association have donated upward of 30,000 hours of service to the hospital annually. The group currently operates a gift and coffee shop and awards scholarships to the hospital's school of nursing. Outstanding projects organized to benefit the hospital include "Follies", a triennial production of the group, and the "Health Fair" held in the spring of the current year.

The chief purposes of the Association, three in number, are to promote: (1) public relations, (2) volunteer service, and (3) fund raising. Presidents from earliest days to the present include Holyoke's finest:

Mesdames E. C. Taft (1893-1896), William Whiting (1896-1914), H. B. Lawrence (1914-1915), Nathan P. Avery (1915-1922), Frank B. Towne (1922, Nathan P. Avery (1922-1924), Edward P. Bagg, Jr. (1924-1937), C. Edgar Bosworth (1937-1939), Stuart R. Russell (1939-1941), Russell L. Davenport (1941-1943), William H. Hubbard (1943-1945), Russell W. Magna (1945-1947), Roy E. McCorkindale (1947-1949), Donald Purrington (1949-1951), Richard P. Towne (1951-1953), Lawrence A. Putnam (1955-1957), Donald P. Cooke (1957-1959), Samuel F. Potsubay (1959-1961), Frederick P. Barrett (1961-1963), M. David Niss (1963-1964), Edward J. Halton (1964-1965), John H. Leatherbee (1965-1966), Kenneth P. Stein (1966-1967), Benjamin F. Perkins, Jr. (1967-1968), Carl E. Abbey (1968-1969), Sol M. Gold (1969-1970), Hazen P. Chase (1970-1971), Mischa D. Barowsky (1971-1972), Allan R. McKinnon (1972-1973).

Another of the older groups in the city, *The Young Women's Christian Association*, was founded in 1888. The Holyoke Association started as a serving agency. According to the best records available, hundreds of young women have lived at the YWCA over the years. Gradually, programs were developed to meet the needs of young girls in residence and those who have lived elsewhere as well.

Some programs or activities offered by the Y, through the years, include: Girl Reserves, Public

Forums, Interracial Club (first in Holyoke), Business Girls' Club, Industrial League, Golden Age Club, International Students' Club and YW Trippers.

Mrs. Eloise H. Beynon, Executive Director, lists as outstanding efforts: Catacombs, Summer Fun, Funmobile, Beautification Project, Probation Project, Listening Centers, and the Comprehensive Adolescent Parent Program.

Charter members of Holyoke's YWCA were respected leaders in this community before the turn of the century. The women were: Martha Maxfield, Myrtle Frissell, Jennie Chamberlin, Alice Hemingway, Sarah H. Scott, Alice F. Allyn, Florence M. Rand, Jennie E. Lyman, Ellen M. Prentiss, Susie B. Russell, Harriet E. D. Fowler, Helen Prentiss, and Harriet P. Towne.

The Music Club of Greater Holyoke, still in existence today, was organized in 1889. Its purpose was to promote musical interests of its membership and stimulate musical culture for Holyoke and adjacent areas. Originally, the club was founded by the mother of Fanny Reed Hammond as "a get together for young girls interested in Music". Miss Fanny Reed was its first president. Its current president is Mrs. Phyllis Call Constance.

Activities or services of the club range from financial aid to deserving students of music to papers on composers, and performance of their works. Most of Holyoke's outstanding women musicians belong to the "Music Club".

The Mater Dolorosa Society of the Polish Women's Alliance of America was founded in 1912 as a fraternal organization. The Alliance was organized to serve three specific purposes: (1) to

play an active role in good government, (2) to support various projects for the benefit of church and community, and (3) to perpetuate Polish culture among youth of Polish ancestry. The founders of the organization, Mrs. Tekla Starzyk and Mrs. Constanca Gulewski, were early leaders in Mater Dolorosa Parish.

Amelia Bednarz is president of the group this Centennial Year. The members engage in such large-scale activities as the Festival of Arts at Wistariahurst, the Polonaise Ball, and the production of annual pageants at Stanley Park. To honor Holyoke's Centennial and to mark the five hundredth birthday of Nicolaus Copernicus, the members plan to hold a special celebration at the War Memorial Building this year.

Holyoke Chapter of Hadassah came into being in 1916. Mrs. David Barowsky, Mrs. Alex Baume, Mrs. B. W. Cohen, and Mrs. Jacob Gold were the co-founders. Hadassah's objectives are many, but in general, the group exists to promote and maintain Jewish culture through dissemination of information on Zionism, the education of Jewish Youth, and sponsorship of the Aliyah Movement.

Holyoke Girl Scouts was founded in 1918, but the organization was not chartered until 1922. The Scouts exist to promote education, recreation, service, and wholesome living for girls between the ages of seven and seventeen. Mrs. John M. James was Holyoke's first Commissioner, Mrs. W. G. Dwight Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Honoria K. Shine Secretary, Mrs. E. R. Campbell Treasurer, and Mrs. Clifford K. Judd, Executive Committee Member.

The Scouts have been extremely active through the years. Some of their more outstanding activities include the organization of a drum and bugle corps and the acquisition of land for a resident Girl Scout Camp (Camp Lewis Perkins).

It is worthy of recording, in passing, that the first Community Service Badge awarded in this state was earned by a Holyoke Girl Scout, that the "First Aid Badge" of Girl Scouts of the United States was designed by a Holyoke Scout in open competition, and that the "Brownie Smile Song" sung by Girl Scouts all over the world today was written by Mrs. Francis Heywood (now living in Gloucester). Incidentally, too, when Mrs. Heywood lived in Holyoke, she was associated with countless programs and projects to improve the level of community living.

Information provided by the Western Massachusetts Office of Scouting will shed some light on the status of Girl Scouting as organized today:

"In 1958 the Holyoke Girl Scout Council merged with the Girl Scout Councils of Amherst, Easthampton, Northampton, South Hadley, and Westfield to form the Ox Bow Council with offices in the former Dwight house on Appleton Street, Holyoke.

"In 1963 the Ox Bow Council merged with Girl Scout Councils in Franklin and Berkshire Counties to form the present Western Massachusetts Girl Scout Council, Inc. with an office on Haydenville Road, Route 9, Northampton.

"Volunteer adults continue to provide the program for some 760 Holyoke Girl Scouts, aged 7-17 who subscribe to the Girl Scout promise:

On my honor, I will try
To serve God,
My country, and mankind,
And to live by the Girl Scout Law."

Members of the first Holyoke Girl Scout Council, in addition to its officers, were: Mrs. E. R. Alderman, Mrs. E. P. Bagg, Miss Agnes Cadieux, Mrs. William R. S. Chase, Mrs. Thomas S. Childs, Mrs. Stanley C. Cox, Mrs. W. C. Hatch, Mrs. Francis Heywood, Mrs. Philip M. Judd, Mrs. F. R. Knox, Miss Beatrice LaFrance, Mrs. Flora Farr Morrow, Miss Rena Redford, Mrs. Henry L. Russell, Miss Jennie Scolley, Mrs. Ernest S. Steele, Mrs. Charles N. Thorp, and Miss Harriet Webber.

Captains of the Holyoke troops in 1922 at the time of founding were: the Misses Louise McElwain, Donna Doane, Marion Dibble, Anna Gold, Helen Martin, Septa Lynn, and Mesdames Bushee and Judd. Since 1922, hundreds of volunteers have served Girl Scouting in Holyoke.

The largest, most all-inclusive organization for women in this city is the *Holyoke Women's Club*, founded in 1923 and incorporated in 1924. Mrs. William G. Dwight (Minnie R.) spearheaded the movement, assisted by Mrs. Frank (Rhena) Holyoke, Mrs. William (Elizabeth) Towne, Mrs. Walter (Edna) Hatch, Miss Annie Maxfield, and Mrs. Nathan P. (Katherine) Avery. Mrs. Dwight was the Club's first president.

Names of Incorporators in 1924 were the following eighteen members: Minnie R. Dwight, Rhena M. Holyoke, Jennie E. Scolley, Mabel A. Metcalf, Edna M. Hatch, Martha Bardwell Bailey, Mary E. Lucey, Caroline F. Sanford, Katherine Avery, Elizabeth Towne, Isabel Weis, Lena T. Chapin, Lillian Playdon, Bertha H. Prentiss, Ella G. Partridge, Bessie H. Gaylord, Helene L. Conant, and Florence H. James.

The club was established to form a center for the "moral, intellectual, and social betterment of the citizens of Holyoke and vicinity". Its reputation has remained untarnished in its fifty years of existence.

Miss Gertrude M. Griffin, today's historian of the club, considers the following activities to have been the organization's most outstanding endeavors:

"In 1926 the Club won first prize in Holyoke's Fourth of July Parade for the best float. In 1928 the club was responsible for establishing the Division of Diphtheria Immunization at the Holyoke Board of Health. In the twenties, many awards and citations were received from the Massachusetts Federation of Women's Clubs for local efforts in safety, community service, volunteerism, and for promotion of projects in art, music, membership, and literature. In the same decade "Boost Holyoke Days" (1928) culminated in a display of Holyoke's industrial products at Mountain Park. This was the first project of its kind held under the auspices of any women's club in the country. Another year, the club provided milk for a class of undernourished children at Park Street School.

"Through the decades, the Veterans' Hospital at Leeds, Holyoke Soldiers' Home, Homes for the Aged, USO, and Holyoke Chapter American Red Cross have benefited from innumerable hours of volunteer service donated by Women's Club members.

"In recent years, the Club cooperated with the Holyoke School Department in "Project Booster" under the direction of Dr. Marcella R. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools.

"A Youth Day program for Juniors and Seniors at Holyoke High School was held in 1970. Basilla Neilan, National Youth Consultant, spoke at the morning assembly, and in the afternoon, spoke to the Club and leaders of the various youth organizations in the city."

In addition to the foregoing, substantial sums have been donated to other worthy causes: two

scholarships (since 1966) to leading honor students at Holyoke High School, one thousand dollars to Holyoke Hospital Memorial Fund, and one thousand dollars to Providence Hospital Building Fund.

That the Club has kept pace with the years is evident from the changing projects initiated by members from one decade to the next.

A special word of gratitude is extended to Miss Gertrude Griffin, the Club's excellent historian, for the time she expends in behalf of the Club's annals.

Past presidents of this remarkable club include some of Holyoke's finest women: Mesdames William G. Dwight (1923-1926), Frank Holyoke (1926-1928), Esther Sears Lynch (1928-1930), Walter Hatch (1930-1932), L. Arthur Williston (1932-1934), Walter E. Thompson (1934-1936), Miss Regina Kirkpatrick (1936-1938), Mesdames Harvey J. L. Hewitt (1938-1940), William E. Towne (1940-1942), Nathan P. Avery (1942-1944), James J. Dowd (1944-1946), Elwyn Taber (1946-1948), Austin W. Kenefick (1948-1950), Edward A. O'Malley (1950-1952), Russell E. Chase (1952-1954), George F. McMahan (1954-1956), Reinhold Hanner (1956-1958), Josie Beloin (1958-1960), Martin J. Bowen (1960-1962), Joseph A. DiCarlo (1962-1963), Robert A. Dickinson (1963-1965), Walter J. Griffin (1965-1967), Roy Laliberte (1967-1969), J. Wilfred Lariviere (1969-1971), George Thompson (1972-1973).

No more worthy group than Holyoke Women's Club deserves the community's salute on this, the organization's Fiftieth Anniversary.

Officers of the Club's Fiftieth Anniversary, which is being celebrated coincidentally with Holyoke's Historic One Hundredth, are: President, Mrs. George M. Thompson; First Vice President,

Mrs. George Connor; Second Vice President, Mrs. Jerome Morgan; Recording Secretary, Miss Helen Freeman; Assistant Recording Secretary, Mrs. Edgar Hamel; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Richard Kulpinski; Assistant Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Albert Balciunas; Assistant Treasurer, Mrs. Leo Belanger; Historian, Miss Gertrude Griffin.

The Holyoke Business and Professional Women's Club is a group which was established in 1922 to contribute to the personal growth of its members, and to advance the educational, cultural, and social pursuits among women in the Holyoke community. Two of its founding members, Miss Marjorie Green and Miss Helén Cray, were career women. Miss Green had risen to a high position in a local bank, Miss Cray was buyer in the lingerie department at the McAuslan and Wakelin Department Store.

On its fiftieth anniversary, celebrated in 1972, these excerpts were culled from the Club's program:

"From its inception the Holyoke BPW took an active part in state and national programs, and the business and social life of Holyoke. In March, 1922 the Constitution was read and there was singing under Miss Margaret Powers . . .

"Guest speaker for the first birthday dinner was Senator David I. Walsh. In 1924 the members approved of closing the stores one night a week to give the employees some time off. In 1927 the Club contributed \$250 to the Mississippi flood sufferers. In 1930 the Massachusetts Federation's Annual Convention was held at Hotel Nonotuck on May 17 and 18. At that time the Club had 168 members, and programs included community singing, plays, revues, parties, and educational lectures.

"Through state and national Federations, the members today support the equal rights amend-

ment now before the Senate, conservation, safety, and health. We contribute to the Ten Neediest Families, and the United Fund. Young women of the community are encouraged by scholarships and leadership training programs through club membership and personal development programs, and the Club provides opportunities for meeting friends through its dinner meetings and participation in the social affairs and programs of other clubs.

“We are mindful of the heritage we have been bequeathed. We shall endeavor to be worthy of it.”

The Club in more recent years has sponsored and supported legislation and administrative action of interest to women. Additionally, the Club keeps women informed concerning national and state legislation. The membership has also been greatly involved in promotion of the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Presidents of the Club from its beginning include: Dorothy Moran (1922), Julia Chapin (1922), Esther M. Greeley (1923), Anne L. Gilligan (1924-1925), Anne Sinclair (1925-1927), Margaret M. Powers (1927-1929), Elizabeth Towne (1929-1931), Anne Marshall (1931-1933), Regina Kirkpatrick (1933-1935), Mrs. Harvey J. L. Hewitt (1935-1937), Dr Grace Fitzgibbon (1937-1939), Mae D. Coffey (1939-1941), Ruth Canavan (1941-1943), Anne Halfpenny (1943-1945), Mrs. Harvey J. L. Hewitt (1945-1947), Antoinette Charest (1947-1949), Mrs. Walter Hanley (1949-1950), Mary Judge (1950-1952), Frances Dobbs (1952-1954), Alys Hickey (1954-1956), Helen Griffin (1956-1958), Lena Waring (1958-1959), Grace B. Brooks (1959-1961), Rose Degon (1961-1963), Anna Kullman (1963-1965), Gloria Barber (1965-1967), Margaret Parenzo (1967-1968), Jean Kyte (1968-1970), Leondina Micca (1970-1971), Agnes Corbeil (1971-1972), Jean Forget (1972-1973).

Quota, mentioned so frequently in this volume, is one of Holyoke's outstanding service clubs. It was organized at the home of the late Mrs. William G. (Minnie R.) Dwight in 1930. Mrs. Mary Quirk Williston, along with Mrs. Dwight, were the prime movers instrumental in founding this group.

The Club is a service organization for women executives exclusively. It is a branch of Quota International, Inc., which has units in many different countries throughout the world.

Quota has sponsored scholarships for nurses, projects for the hard-of-hearing, the speech handicapped, the Ten Neediest Cases, and countless others during its forty-three years of existence. Included in its budget annually are funds for Red Cross, United Fund, and similar charities. The first president was Miss Mary Gibson.

The purposes or objectives of Quota encompass the following: (1) to serve country and community, (2) to promote high ethical standards, (3) to emphasize the dignity of all useful occupations, (4) to develop good fellowship and friendship, and (5) to advance the ideals of righteousness, justice, international understanding, and good will. Charter members were: Gerturde Alderman, Beatrice Bateman, Sarah Clark, Mae Connors, Frances Callahan, Mary T. Cunningham, Mrs. Margaret Carlon, Mrs. Minnie Dwight, Hanna Dowling, Mrs. Mary E. Dowd, Mrs. Velleda Ekstedt, Alice Feeney, Dr. Grace Fitzgibbon, Mrs. Mary Fitzgibbon, Mrs. Margaret Kelly, Mary E. Lucey, Mrs. Ella McNerney, Mary McGrath, Mary McQuillan, Florence M. McGough, Mrs. Arthur Marcil, Mrs. Helen Moriarty, Mrs. Homer Newell, Alice O'Connor, Laura Rabinski, Grace Robb, Jennie Robb, Jen-

nie E. Scolley, Mary Sheehan, Dr. Honoria K. Shine, Mae Skehan, Laura Stedman, Bess Sullivan, Rosaline Sullivan, Maude Tacy, Elizabeth Thompson, Mrs. Louise M. Trudeau, Mae C. Tobin, Atty. Florence Woods and Mrs. Mary Williston.

Presidents of the Quota Club for the past forty-two years include Mary Gibson, Mrs. Mary Williston, Mrs. Mary Down, Ruth Canavan, Mrs. Lena Waring, Anne Warren, Mrs. Marie Quirk, Dr. Marcella Kelly, Elizabeth Dillon, Rebecca Bray, Erma Devlin, Mrs. Adele Gerisco, Mrs. Agnes Bishop, Mrs. Anna Kullmann, Hildegarde Newton, Mary C. Manning.

The Holyoke Junior Service Corps, founded in 1932, became in 1945 the *Junior League of Holyoke, Incorporated*. This organization, one of the most dynamic of all groups in the city, was established during the Depression chiefly to provide trained volunteers to assist community agencies in their service efforts. The original aim was broadened eventually to include the following:

“The purpose of the Junior League is exclusively educational and charitable, and is to promote volunteerism, to develop the potential of its members for voluntary participation in community affairs, and to demonstrate the effectiveness of trained volunteers.”

As the Junior Service Corps, the Membership sponsored, among other projects, a Child Guidance and Speech Clinic, established a concert course in cooperation with Mount Holyoke College, and initiated a Nursery School Program in cooperation with Holyoke School Department at West Street School.

Mrs. Wayne D. (Marilyn) Gass, current League president, provided the writer with a chronology of

projects undertaken since 1945, the year the Service Corps became the Junior League of Holyoke, Inc.:

1945 - Present

The Children's Theater was formed. This group brought to the children of Holyoke, South Hadley, and Granby a variety of plays, puppet shows, ballets, and workshops.

1947-1957

The Junior League sponsored a weekly educational radio program in cooperation with the Holyoke School Department and WHYN.

1947-1955

The Holyoke Day Camp was established at the Mt. Tom Reservation for girls between the ages of seven and fifteen by the Junior League and the Holyoke Girl Scouts.

1947

The Nursery Health Care Program was initiated by the League to provide medical service to the children in local nursery schools as well as to subsidize tuitions for underprivileged children.

1955

A playroom was opened at the Skinner Clinic designed to accommodate and care for visiting children.

1956-1959

Handicraft classes for children were conducted at Holyoke Museum. Art lessons were offered, as well as classes in American Indian Lore. League members assisted.

1956

The Boys' Club Library was completely refurbished. The League also co-sponsored a community workshop to study the needs of youth.

1959

A scholarship was established to provide a social worker for Children's Services. A nursing scholarship was also established at the Holyoke Hospital. A film series dealing with the basic needs of children between the ages of six and sixteen was conducted at Mount Holyoke College for parents and educators.

1960

The Volunteer Aid Pact with the Holyoke School Department, whereby trained volunteers work with teachers and students, was established.

1961-1971

"Art Goes to School" was trouped to elementary schools. Its purpose was to discuss and describe various masterpieces.

1963-1964

The Junior Great Books Program was begun. A Service Directory was compiled for use by agencies and people to be served.

1969

A revised directory of social resources and services was published in the Holyoke, Chicopee, and Northampton areas, and in 1970 this directory was published in Spanish.

1970

A coordinator was provided to conduct an orientation program for Kulturama.

1971

Drugs Are Like That, a drug education film, was shown in all fourth grades in Holyoke.

No one can read of the impressive activities of the League and not be moved by the time and effort its members have volunteered in behalf of the Holyoke community.

The writer has had many contacts with League members. Their willingness to serve, the quality of service rendered, and the cheerful manner in which they performed as volunteers will long be remembered.

Past Presidents of the Junior Service Corps are: Mrs. Robert M. Goss (1932-1934), Mrs. Frank E. Button (1934-1936), Mrs. Karl H. Alderman (1936-1937), Mrs. Richard M. Weiser (1937-1938), Mrs. William Dwight (1938-1940), Mrs. F. G. Clark Smith, Jr. (1940-1942), Mrs. Richard P. Towne (1942-1944), Mrs. Henry V. Burgee (1944-1945).

Past Presidents of the Junior League of Holyoke, Incorporated include: Mrs. Joseph Metcalf, II (1945-1946), Mrs. William W. Newton (1946-1947), Mrs. Aaron M. Bagg (1947-1948), Mrs. Otto C. Kohler (1948-1949), Mrs. Hugh J. Corcoran (1949-1950), Mrs. Robert Merrill (1950-1951), Mrs. Benjamin W. Childs (1951-1953), Mrs. Philip W. Hill (1953-1954), Mrs. George J. Lippman (1954-1955), Mrs. Frederick P. Barrett (1955-1957), Mrs. Benjamin F. Perkins, Jr. (1957-1958), Mrs. Eugene W. Mason, Jr. (1958-1959), Mrs. Maynard J. Lippmann (1959-1961), Mrs. John H. Conant, Jr. (1961-1962), Mrs. Richard M. Weiser, Jr. (1962-1964), Mrs. William Dwight, Jr. (1964-1966), Mrs. John C. Osgood (1966-1968), Mrs. Robert T. Fitzpatrick, Jr. (1968), Mrs. Robert F. Berkey (1969), Mrs. Robert K.

Steiger (1969-1971), Mrs. Wayne D. Gass (1971-1973).

Cercle des Grand'Mamans, organized in 1952, was founded by Mrs. Joseph Chevalier and a group of women interested in promoting personal growth, French culture, and community involvement of its members. Several women assisted Mrs. Chevalier in the club's organization: Mrs. Antoine Bourgeault, Mrs. Camille Ducharme, Mrs. Henry Allain, Mrs. Sylvia Carriveau, Mrs. William Dupre, Mrs. Corinne Gilbert, Mrs. Joseph Hebert, Mrs. Arthur Lafleur, Mrs. Albert Rheume, Mrs. Frank Tourville, and Mrs. George Washington.

The club, affiliated with the Federation of Franco-American Women, meets monthly at the YWCA. Funds are raised through club activities and are used to support scholarships and community charities. The membership has organized a systematic visitation program in behalf of the ill and the infirm. The current president is Mrs. Timothy Foley.

Paper City Post 325, Women's Auxiliary was organized in 1948. Its first officers were: President, Mrs. Shirley G. Morrison; Vice-President, Mrs. Claire L. Miles; Chaplain, Mrs. Wilbur Daniels; Treasurer, Anna Gerbert; Secretary, Mrs. Constance Giehler; Historian, Mrs. Vivian Lempke; Executive Board, Claire Kane, Mrs. Gladys Rosseau, Sarah Farr, Elaine McLean.

In December the Post will be celebrating its Twenty-Fifth Anniversary. Through the years it has worked with Veterans at Leeds and at Soldiers' Home. It has also engaged in projects in behalf of child welfare and has helped to provide scholarships for deserving students.

The Post includes among its membership a fine group of volunteers, who donate services to the Veterans' Hospitals on a systematic schedule.

Officers serving at present include: President, Mrs. June E. Loftus; Senior Vice-President, Mrs. Gladys Rosseau; Junior Vice-President, Mrs. Claire Conway; Secretary, Mrs. Claire Miles; Treasurer, Mrs. Vivian Lempke; Chaplain, Mrs. Beatrice Glens; Historian, Mrs. Marge Turschmann; Sgt.-at-Arms, Mrs. Lydia Raysel; Executive Board, Mrs. Marie Morrissey, Mrs. Helen Williamson, Mrs. Louise Young.

The Holyoke Boys' Club Mothers' Club was founded in 1968. The organization, though barely five years old, is doing exceptionally well. Its chief fund-raising project is the operation of a refreshment concession at Holyoke High School football and basketball games. A special fund-raising project is conducted in the spring. Monies realized are used to help defray the cost of programs for which no funds have otherwise been provided. Lockers for Boys' Club, camperships, and scholarships have been supported by these funds.

The founders of the Club include the following mothers: Eileen Sleboda, Julia Moriarty, Margaret Collamore, Margaret Turschmann, Eileen Goddu, Kathy Fleming, and Joan Fleming. Mrs. Nancy Quirk is president of the Club this Centennial Year.

The Sisterhood of the Congregation Rodphey Sholom organized in 1922, was founded to develop Jewish cultural programs and to work wherever possible in behalf of the Holyoke community. Its founding leaders were: Mesdames Louis Belsky, Benjamin Danelowitz, Nathan Feldman, Joseph

Goldenberg, Fannie Greenspan, David Polansky, Jacob Saex, Maurice Smith, and Abraham Stein.

The Sisterhood fosters Jewish educational programs on the local and national level involving both adults and youth. One of its well-received efforts was the presentation of a program, "Festival of Joys". This was an innovation designed to explain the Jewish Holidays, what they are and what they mean. The response to this program was so overwhelming that it was repeated for Holyoke's Centennial Celebration.

The Sisterhood has sponsored lectures, held bazaars, and operated fairs of one kind or another to support its programs. Among other activities of the Sisterhood may be mentioned service to USO, United Fund, and Red Cross.

Mrs. Dolores Stein, a leader of consequence in this community, informed the writer that another group, the Jewish Women's Council, founded over forty years ago but no longer in existence, contributed substantially to the life of the community during the years it was in operation. Mrs. Stein's direct quotation follows:

"The Jewish Women's Council is no longer in existence, but it did leave its mark on the community for forty years. It will be three years since the organization was disbanded. We feel that Mrs. Jacob Barowsky played a vital role in this organization."

The story of the Council is included for the good it accomplished in its years of existence.

In 1930 Mrs. Jacob L. Barowsky, along with thirteen women, formed the *Jewish Community Council*. Its Charter Members, prominent in the total community, were: Mesdames Samuel Alperin, Jacob Barowsky, Abraham Greenspan,

Bernard Horn, Jacob Katz, Israel Josephson, Edward Mador, William Marshall, Samuel Nadler, Jacob Orlen, Casper Pallot, Archie Portno, and Isadore Waxler.

The Council provided its membership with excellent educational and cultural programs. It was involved in numerous community projects, as USO, United Fund Drives and Red Cross; also volunteer efforts in behalf of the "Aging". The Council sponsored "The Great Decisions Program", a "Great Books" Series, Art courses, and physical education programs.

One of the most civic-minded organizations in Holyoke today, the *League of Women Voters* of the Holyoke area, was founded in 1968. Mrs. Robert Abrams was the organization's resuscitator and main guiding light, along with thirty-nine Charter Members. About forty years ago a League did exist in Holyoke but went out of business, so to speak, at some time in the thirties. The newer group is tremendously active. The membership is "high quality", well educated, and fairly sophisticated politically. Things are being done to educate our citizens in the scope and meaning of participatory government. The membership, vitally interested in making Holyoke a richer and better place in which to live, has undertaken a number of projects along these lines: voter registration drives; research study in air, water, and land use; City Charter Revision, study of health care facilities in Holyoke, and Community Analysis Report of the City of Holyoke.

Mrs. Abrams, a member of Holyoke Junior College staff, is a fine young woman. She is intensely dedicated to the work of the League. Her hus-

band, Dr. Robert Abrams, pediatrician, has served as a member of the Holyoke School Committee. Both are politically astute, knowledgeable, and community-involved.

Revival of the League is good for Holyoke at this point in history.

The Women's Committee, Holyoke Museum, came into being February of 1960. Its founder, Mrs. William S. (Marie Schurr) Quirk had it in mind to establish a Youth Museum in connection with Wistariahurst, and she was of the opinion that an organization of women, properly directed, could bring that dream to fruition. Mrs. Quirk was right. A committee was organized, and the project was started. Mrs. Walter E. Preiss, chairman of the Committee, provided this information on the Youth Museum's founding:

"The Women's Committee of the Holyoke Museum undertook the establishment of the Holyoke Youth Museum to enrich the cultural life of the youth of the City of Holyoke and surrounding areas. The organization continues its development with the proceeds of two fund-raising efforts each year.

"To date, two departments have been developed on the first floor of the Youth Museum: Twentieth Century Science and Natural History of the Connecticut Valley. In May of 1973 a portion of the second floor will be opened. This area will eventually be developed as a Hall of Indian History.

"The Holyoke Youth Museum is housed in the former carriage-house on the Museum grounds adjacent to Wistariahurst, the Museum of Art and Natural History."

The Development Committee for the Museum includes: Mrs. Walter E. Preiss, Mrs. Arvin C. French, Rebecca Bray, Mrs. Edwin Mahoney, Mrs. Sumner G. Perkins.

To provide funds and furnishings for the Dr. Bagg Memorial Room, the following ladies volunteered their services: Mrs. Walter E. Preiss, Mrs. Sidney Gordon, Dr. Edna Fredrick, Mrs. Edwin Mahoney, Mrs. Charles O'Neill, and Mrs. Robert H. Russell.

Some women, because of extraordinary effort in behalf of the Women's Committee, were honored by election to life membership. These include: Mesdames Walter E. Preiss, William S. Quirk, Charles R. Dunbar, William H. Hubbard, and Robert H. Russell. Sr. Honorary Lifetime Directors now deceased are: Mesdames Katherine Kilborne, Fannie Reed Hammond, and Edith Magna.

Today, thirteen years after the Committee's establishment, an impressive list of officers and sub-committees work to promote cultural awareness in this city.

Officers Include President, Mrs. Walter E. Preiss; First Vice-President, Mrs. Edwin M. Mahoney; Second Vice-President, Antoinette Charest; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Sumner G. Perkins; Assistant Corresponding Secretary, Dr. Edna Fredrick; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Anne B. Keller; Treasurer, Rebecca Bray.

The Board of Directors is comprised of nine members: Genevieve Brown, Dorothy Cramer, Mrs. Arvin C. French, Mrs. Sidney Gordon, Dr. Mary Lyons, Mrs. Robert H. Russell, Sr., Mrs. Norris Sutherland, Mae Tobin, and Mrs. Martin H. Zanger.

Providence Hospital Guild was founded in 1940 by a small group of volunteers. Presently, it

has 400 members and a corps of almost 130 Junior Volunteers (both boys and girls) actively participating in the Hospital's projects. Efforts of Guild Volunteers include active servicing of the Hospital's needs, such as Bookmobile, Coffee Shop, and Gift Shop. The Guild is also engaged in fund raising for equipment beneficial to the health care needs of patients. The following are the past Presidents of the Guild: Mesdames Eulick Sullivan (1940-42), Christopher O'Connell (1942-44), Anthony Pendola (1944-46), George Ross (1946-48), Edward Halton (1948-50), Elmer Harrington (1950-52), Harry Baker (1952-54), Edward McHugh (1954-56), Raymond Conway (1956-57), Edgar Fleury (1957-58), Gardner Cox II (1958-59), Miss June McGarry (1959-60), Mesdames Thomas Conway (1960-61), Leo Byrnes (1961-62), Thomas Gloster (1962-63), Thomas McQuillan (1963-65), Stanley Frodema (1965-66), Robert O'Brien (1966-67), Roger Robitaille (1967-68), Victor Panitch (1968-69), Robert Molitor (1969-70), Maurice Boivin (1970-71), Anthony Stathatos (1971-72), Joseph Kelly (1972-73), Francis Cataldo (1973-74).

Centennial Officers include the following: President, Mrs. Francis (Marilyn) Cataldo; President-Elect, Mrs. William (Jean) Dean; Vice-President, Mrs. Augusto (Jean) Asinas; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Francis (Wendy) Martin; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Norman (Constance) Laroche; Treasurer, Mrs. Raymond (Janet) Lussier.

Today Holyoke women move in many different guilds, circles, clubs, and associations other than those included in this volume. Space, however, does not permit their inclusion. Suffice it to say that this community, on the occasion of its Historic One Hundredth, is the better because of their ex-

istence and the good they have, and are, accomplishing.

As this Centennial Year moves behind the wall of Eternity, it is appropriate that our people count their blessings. A quote from Charles Dickens comes to mind:

“Reflect upon your blessings of which every man has plenty; not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some.”

With the words of Dickens in mind, all of us ought to look to tomorrow with an abiding faith in this city and its women. Let this not be a last Amen!





